SEPTEMBER 28TH NCA NIGHT AT THE 12-INCH. The 12" refractor in the dome at the west end of the Administration Building of the Naval Observatory has been reserved for the amateurs Saturday the 28th. Observations will start at 8 p.m., skies permitting, with Mr. Cilley in charge. This is a special event through the courtesy of the Observatory.

WANDERING OBSERVATORY. As observatories spring up at higher and higher altitudes, the Smithsonian Solar Station on a mountain near Tyrone, New Mexico, prepares to descend to sea level! The astrophysical observatory has been closed due to lack of director, and pollution of the air by mining operations started during the war. In about two months the equipment will be moved to the test field of General Motors Corp. near Miami, Florida, to study in particular the water vapor absorption of the atmosphere.

Not content with moving once, this roving observatory will later take its stand at a spot to be determined in Lower California. Mr. F. A. Greeley, formerly of the Station at Montezuma, will be director. The position of assistant director is open.

CORRECTIONS. Mistakes in the bulletin bring the rewarding satisfaction that somebody reads them--and points out the errors. Occasionally a slip occurs "in the mill," although the duplicating business does a fine job, but the rest are ours. Presently outstanding against us: the last issue should read "Washington, D.C." in the masthead, and "August 1946." Par. 1, line 5, sixth word, "bestowed." May 1946 issue should be Vol. 3, No. 9; and June, Vol. 3, No. 10.

FOR HELP IN GRINDING MIRRORS, get in touch with Arthur S. DeVany, 3518 Reservoir Road, N.W.

JOHN HOLLOWAY turned in about 75 variable star observations before joining the Navy in August.

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Mabel Sterns, Editor. 2517 K St. N.W. Dis. 9422

STAR DUST

National Capital Astronomers
Washington, D. C.

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SEPTEMBER EVENTS

7th, Saturday, 8 p.m. Commerce Auditorium, 14th St. between Constitution Ave. and D St. Dr. Paul R. Heyl.

13th, Friday evening, NCA observatory on Naval Observatory grounds. Variable star observing under direction of Morgan Cilley.

21st, Saturday, 8 p.m. foyer of Commerce Auditorium, discussion group; Grace Scholz leader.

28th, Saturday, Administration Building, Naval Obs., the 12" refractor has been reserved for the use of the National Capital Astronomers.

NEXT MEETING AT COMMERCE AUDITORIUM. The committee to find more suitable quarters investigated at least ten auditoriums and for various reasons had to eliminate all but the one at the Department of Commerce which they turned down several months ago. Upon reconsideration it was found that the floor can be screened off for a suitable space, and there is a public address system which should improve the acoustics over those at the National Museum. It was decided to give the hall a trial and hold one lecture there, 14th Street between Constitution Ave. and D Street. Then we can see for ourselves how we like the screen, the projector, acoustics, etc.

MEMBERSHIP DUES are payable in September, according to our revised by-laws. $3 a year for seniors, $1 for juniors prorated at 25¢ and 10¢ a month respectively; joint memberships 42¢ per month. For example, if you paid $3 last February, you need pay only $1.75 now to complete your dues for the coming year. Adjusted statements will be mailed during the month.

DR. PAUL W. HEYL will be the speaker September 7th. The title of his lecture was not announced at the time this went tc press. Dr. Heyl is well remembered by those who heard him address us on two previous occasions.

THE EXTRA MEETING called August 16th at the Mt. Pleasant Library, brought out thirty members and many ideas. Lecture subjects and speakers were suggested, organized observation was planned, and a discussion group was given careful thought. A few committees were appointed, and the outlook is bright for an active program this year.

VARIABLE STAR OBSERVING is one of the juniors' ambitions, so Mr. Morgan Cilley offered to assist them. Friday the thirteenth for all those who want to learn variable star work, at the Naval Observatory grounds.

A DISCUSSION GROUP IN ASTRONOMY will meet on the third Saturday of each month. The first will be held September 21st, 8 p.m. in the foyer of the Commerce Auditorium. A different chairman will be selected to lead the discussion each month. This group has been organized in lieu of a class in astronomy, since no instructor could be found.

No decision has been made as to the scope of the discussion or the objectives of the meetings. Several methods of conducting such a discussion series come to mind.

1. A textbook can be selected and studied at a given rate, e.g. one chapter a month.

2. The discussion can be an open one dealing with no special subject, with questions raised by the group. If such a procedure is adopted, the chairman will assume responsibility for provoking discussion.

3. A subject can be assigned for discussion each month with each class member having read some material on that subject during the month. The chairman might in this case read a prepared paper to start the discussion.

These are merely suggestions. The decision as to the form the discussion should take is yours. Come and present your ideas and help this group get started.

---Grace C. Scholz

METEOR COUNT BY JUNIORS

On the morning of August 12, Jack Regan counted 14 meteors between 1:15 a.m. and 4:15 a.m., watching from 930 Madison St. N.W. He said it was mostly clear with a bright moon. Paul Robbins, Jack Regan, and myself observed at Paul Junior High School playground the morning of the 13th. We counted 21 meteors between 3:45 and 4:00 a.m.

There were four really bright meteors. One as bright as Venus streaked from Perseus northwest to Cygnus. It had the longest duration of any meteor that night. Another, just a little dimmer, passed through Auriga and left a faint trail. About 3:15 a.m. a second magnitude meteor which traveled 6 or 7 degrees, left a small cloud of glowing vapor beneath Epsilon Cassiopeiae.

All of the time we were watching it was cloudy from the zenith to the southern horizon. It was very clear up north, however, with no haze. Unfortunately a little after four o'clock it became cloudy all over. The moon affected us little because it was partially hidden by the clouds.

All of the meteors were swift and had a white or yellow color. None had a duration of more than 1½ seconds. We have plotted some of the meteors on a map of the constellations, but we don't vouch for their accuracy. ---Carl Werntz, Junior Astronomer.