

HARRIET HUTZLER AND IRVING MALITSKY attended the convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Science in New York City in December. They attended all the astronomical sections. Astronomical papers were given by several of the top astronomers of the country. Harriet and Irving were also fortunate in seeing the very newest pictures made with the 200-inch in December, just after it was put back into service.

These were pictures of several of the galaxies contrasted with pictures of the same galaxies photographed with the Mount Wilson 100-inch.

A SMALL LINE SKETCH OF LYLE JOHNSON'S JOHNSONIAN TELESCOPE heads Mr. Albert Ingall's "The Amateur Astronomer" section of the Scientific American. Lyle is one of our members and lives in LaPlata, Maryland. A four page article appeared in the Scientific American last September on this telescope.

"THE ENERGY OF STARS," an article by Robert E. Marshak appearing in January Scientific American and "SUPERNOVAE" by George Gamow in December Scientific American are both very interesting reading.

On the other hand -- "THE DAY THE SUN STOOD STILL", by Eric Larrabee in January Harper's is astounding and that is about all one can say. As a famous astronomer recently with us was heard to comment, preposterous! Still, astronomically minded people who want to be astonished should read it.

"PHOTOGRAPHY" was the subject of the Discussion Group held Saturday, January 21. A lively and interesting session was held.

Jewell Boling, Editor. 1717 P St., N.W. DU-2969

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FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- Feb. 1 Wed. Instruction and Observation Night at the NCA Observatory (See note in Star Dust).
- Feb. 4 Sat. "THE ATMOSPHERE OF VENUS," by Dr. James B. Edson, 8:15 p. m. Commerce Auditorium.
- Feb. 8 Wed. Instruction and Observation Night at the NCA Observatory.
- ? ? ? ? ? Party date and place to be announced (See note in Star Dust).
- Feb.15 Wed. Instruction and Observation Night at the NCA Observatory.
- Feb.18 Sat. Discussion Group. 8:00 p. m. Commerce Foyer (Subject to be announced at February meeting).

Every Friday night, 7-10 p. m. Telescope making class, Roosevelt High School, 13th and Upshur, N. W. Room 313. Miss Irene Warthen, instructor. Telephone SH 9451.

"THE ATMOSPHERE OF VENUS." Of all the planets, Venus approaches nearest to the Earth, and with the exception of the Sun and Moon and very rare comets, she appears the brightest of all the heavenly bodies. For two hundred years Venus has played the role of bright deceiver and almost every astronomer who has looked at her has seen her differently. Only in the last forty years have the spectroscope and ultra-

violet camera and other photographic techniques revealed a few of her secrets.

Dr. James B. Edson, the speaker for our February meeting will cover recent developments in the study on the atmosphere of Venus. Dr. Edson is a graduate of the University of Kansas and the California Institute of Technology and received his doctorate at Johns Hopkins University. For several years prior to the war Dr. Edson was on the staff of the Lowell Observatory at Flagstaff. He is at present the scientific consultant in the Office of the Chief of Ordnance. At the meeting, photographs of the ultra-violet clouds and the Venus twilight will be shown and discussed.

---Abraham Robinson, Publicity Chairman

INSTRUCTION AND OBSERVATION NIGHTS. During the month of February, namely: February 1, 8 and 15 (the 22nd is a legal holiday and is not included), the observatory of the NCA will be open for instruction and for observations by NCA members who do not have access to the key to our observatory. We have purposely chosen nights when the Naval Observatory will be open to visitors so that you may also avail yourself of the opportunity to look through some of the larger telescopes.

---Bob Wright, President

MIDDLE EAST REGION CONVENTION date is set for May 6 and will be held in Norfolk. Methods of transportation could include automobile, bus, boat, or train. Things of interest and importance will be happening there, so we hope to have many NCA'ers in attendance.

PROJECTOR TROUBLES may soon be reduced, for consideration is strong on the plus side for purchasing the one in use at the January meeting.

MISS IRENE WARTHEN is the latest addition to our Astronomical League Family. She was recently

six-inch instruments, in the hands of our vast army of amateurs, great work remains undone, waiting only for trained and devoted volunteers. For instance, I am advised that the AAVSO urgently needs young observers with keen eyesight and telescopes of superlative definition, solar observers available at various hours during the day, and amateurs who will search for naked-eye novae and aurorae. The American Meteor Society asks that we impress on amateurs that keeping records of naked-eye and telescopic meteors is important and worth the little time required. The Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers asks for more observations of the less observed planets, translators of articles in foreign languages, computers of mathematical problems, and reviewers of books and current literature. . . . Realizing that most amateurs feel the need of training in organized observing we have arranged that this shall be the keynote of our 1950 convention. At this convention, to be held at Wellesly College, near Boston, Massachusetts, on July 1 to 4, we are able to offer you three nights lodging in the college dormitories plus seven meals, for approximately \$16.00. In these ideal surroundings you will be able to study under the guidance of many whose names are by-words in the world of astronomy."

NEW MEMBERS

- Fleming, Donald P. 3413 Wisconsin Avenue, N. W. (16)
- *Greene, Robert H. 225 N. Galveston, Arlington,
Va. GL-0648
- Hebard, Irene 2519 Congress Street, Washington
(20) JO-2-4577
- *Kusner, John S. 6294 N. 15th Rd., E. Falls
Church, Va. FA-6754
- *Weinstein, Jimmy 3915 N. 5th St., Arlington, Va.
CH-5032

elected as Regional Council Member. Other members who are active in League affairs are Miss Mabel Sterns who edits the Astronomical League Bulletin and is the National Council Member of the Middle East Region; Miss Grace Scholz who is the Executive Secretary for the League, and also National Junior Chairman and editor of Junior Newsletter; and Bob Wright, who is Chairman of our Middle East Region.

DR. BART J. BOK'S most excellent lecture illustrated with superlative slides given on January 14 was attended by approximately 60 members and many guests, including previous lecturers Father Heyden of Georgetown Observatory and Miss Leah Allen of Hood College, and also the President of the Schenectady (New York) Astronomy Club, Mr. Clarence E. Johnson. We hope to see more of our members and friends at the February meeting.

---Bob Wright, President

SUMMER DATES for National Capital Parks star outings and "walk-nics" have been chosen. We will learn more about these during coming months.

PARTY FOR NCA'ERS AND FRIENDS. Arrangements for an annual dinner and party will be made by Miss Janet Perkins. The party will be held sometime in February. Further details will be given at the February meeting. It will be necessary to enlist the aid of several people in making the plans for this party. Please help out if you are called.

STOP WATCHES. Arrangements have been made with a local supplier to obtain stop watches at a discount of thirty-three per cent. These are high quality 7-jewel stop watches that can be read to 1/10 of a second. The regular over-the-counter price of this watch is \$17.50 and by buying three at a time we will be given a price of \$12.50 each. Contact Bob Wright if interested.

IRVING MALITSKY is taking leave from the Bureau of Standards to pursue further study in physics at the College of the City of New York. He is leaving

Washington January 27. He also plans to take some courses in astronomy. We wish him the best of luck.

THE ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE, of which the NCA is a member organization, has many active officers and members, considering the volume of mail being received. The following are all worthy of mention: ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE BULLETIN, which gives news of activities of the League and individual societies. This is a good place for "convention-goers" to hear of old friends, and all of us to learn more about what other astronomy clubs are doing. Published five times a year. To receive your copy, send five self-addressed, stamped envelopes to Miss Grace Scholz, 110 Schuyler Road, Silver Spring, Maryland. JUNIOR NEWSLETTER, of the Astronomical League. All of our junior members receive this quarterly publication. Regular members will find much of interest and value in the articles, such as "Why Not Build a Star Camera" and "Spectroscope and Spectroscopy" which were in the last issue. To receive JUNIOR NEWSLETTER, also send envelopes to Miss Scholz. PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE, a complete report of all papers presented at the Astronomical League Convention in Cleveland last July 4. Subjects of the various articles are: "The Polar Axis of Venus", "The Interference Polarizing Monochromator", "Planetary Astronomy", "An Apparent Occultation of a Star by a Jovian Satellite," "Some Observational Programs of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers", "Studies in Planetary Evolution", "Observing the Messier Catalog", and "The Aurora Borealis: Its Forms and Causes." Published a couple of months ago, this 34 page report may be obtained by contacting Miss Scholz, cost 50 cents.

---Bob Wright, President

A LETTER FROM THE ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE PRESIDENT, Charles H. LeRoy of Pittsburgh. Mr. LeRoy writes in part: "In my official capacity come constant requests for more and more observing amateurs. Our great telescopes are in continuous long-range programs, but they are so few and expensive, they must be left to follow paths where they alone can go. To the humble three and