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IT WAS GOOD OBSERVING AT THE NAVAL OBSERVATORY 26"
on November 24. Those who didn't come missed a treat. Dr. Arthur A. Hoag, of the Observatory, spent two and one half hours showing the 19 NCA'ers present various objects. Highest in interest on the list possibly was the view of Ninninger's "lunar tunnel" reported a couple of months ago in Sky and Telescope. We also had a very fine view of a section of the Apennines. Everyone, including Dr. Hoag, agreed that the view of Jupiter was one which would be rarely surpassed. The planet was huge and the flattened poles clearly discernible. The belts were prominent. In addition we saw the beautiful blue and yellow double, Albireo, the nebula in Orion's sword, and the famous double cluster in Perseus.

PICTORIAL ASTRONOMY, a book recently published, price \$4.50, may be purchased at a special price if five or more club members order it. You can see Janet about this. The book covers a wide range of astronomical topics, written informally and interestingly for the layman. It is profusely illustrated with 262 photographs, 120 drawings, and 42 tables. Another new astronomical book, out on October 27, is John Robinson's THE UNIVERSE WE LIVE IN.

NEW MEMBERS

- Benjamin Adelman, 4329 Fourth Street, S. W. Washington 20, D. C. JOhmson 3-5974
- Jean St. Thomas, 2801 Fifteenth St., N.W., Washington 9, D. C.

TWO FAMOUS NAKED-EYE VARIABLES ARE BEST PLACED for observing now. One of these is the baffling Mira. Get out your chart on constellation Cetus and watch for it. If you don't see it on the first night you look, try again. It may be out in all its glory the next. The eclipsing Algol is also favorably located now. Look for it in Perseus.

Jewell Boling, Editor, 1717 P St., N. W. NOrth 9621

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DECEMBER CALENDAR

Dec. 6 "THE GRAPHIC TIMETABLE OF THE HEAVENS," Mr. Carroll F. Merriam, Vice-President of the Maryland Academy of Sciences. Commerce Auditorium, 8:15 p. m.

Tuesday and Friday, 7-10 p. m. Telescope Making Class, Roosevelt High School, Room 319, 13th and Upshur Sts., N. W. Miss Warthen, Instructor. Telephone LOCKwood 5-1237. Note: Miss Warthen will be present on Tuesdays instead of Fridays this year. There will be no classes during the Christmas holidays.

OUR SPEAKER, CARROLL F. MERRIAM, proposed sixteen years ago that the Maryland Academy of Sciences compile and issue to its members a special almanac computed specifically for the longitude and latitude of Baltimore. Included with the almanac that was developed was a unique chart presenting the astronomical events for the coming year in graphic form, constituting in effect an elementary almanac on a single sheet of paper. This Graphic Timetable of the Heavens soon found wide appeal with astronomers throughout the country and for many years it has appeared as a regular feature of the January issues of Sky and Telescope and Popular Astronomy.

Mr. Merriam, who is the Vice-President of the Maryland Academy of Sciences, is associated with the Pennsylvania Water and Power Company, as an engineer. While a student at Harvard, he was an advisee of the astronomer, Robert Wheeler Wilson, and made the computations in preparation for the European companion to Willson's Sunrises and Sunsets in the United States. Mr. Merriam will tell

the story of the growth of the basic idea from a boyhood fancy to the preparation of the chart for the seven-teenth year. There will be a discussion of the improve-ment made in the technique of preparation, the ideas which have been tried out and abandoned as impractical, and the latest developments aimed to make the chart more useful to the engineer as well as the astronomer.

--A. Robinson

IF YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER IS BEING CHANGED, and you did not advise us at the time you paid your dues, please send your new number at once to Miss Elizabeth Fazekas, 1005 Sligo Parkway, Takoma Park 12, Maryland.

A ROSTER OF MEMBERS OF THE NCA will be included with the January STAR DUST. There are a few members who have not paid their 1952 dues. In order that the printed list may be complete, please make payment to the Treasurer, Miss Elizabeth Fazekas, before December 8, or see her at the next meeting.

WASHINGTON GETS ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE CONVENTION! ! As was announced at the last meeting of the NCA we will be hosts to the 1953 General Convention of the Astronomical League. It will be held here in Washington September 4-7, 1953. The Trustees have appointed Bob Wright to act as Convention Manager. Arrangements have been made with the Carnegie Institution of Washington to hold the convention sessions in their auditorium located at 16th and P Streets, N.W. Adequate space is also being made available for exhibits. The January issue of STAR DUST will carry additional information concerning the plans for the convention. Several chairmen of the various committees have been appointed but the complete list will be announced later. Rather than call on the Astronomical League for an advance of funds to defray any expenses that might be incurred before the convention it is hoped that many NCA'ers will register now for the convention. Registration is \$1.00. This is for the convention only and does not include any of the planned activities. These may be paid at a later date.

There is a great deal of work in the planning and the carrying on of a convention and it is hoped that all NCA members will give a helping hand when called upon. Early registrations should be made with Mrs. Ione Alston who will be in charge of Registrations.

EMBLEM FOR THE NCA. It was proposed at the November meeting that an emblem for the NCA be adopted. Several ideas were expressed, and a drawing was submitted by Lyle Johnson incorporating these ideas. Further work is being done on this project with the hope that we can use this emblem on our stationery in connection with the convention.

BOOKS ABOUT ASTRONOMY, the subject for the November Discussion Group, turned out to be very popular. Six-teen persons, and three times that number of books appeared. Some very old books, and some very new pamphlets were brought. Each person told us some-thing about his books. It was interesting to hear how many brought or mentioned the first book that intro-duced them to astronomy.

THE ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE BULLETIN for October has been received, and a copy is enclosed for all regular mem-bers (unless you previously received one). It was voted by the Trustees to purchase the Bulletin from NCA funds for all regular members for the remaining four issues. It was decided to do this since we wish to have our members well informed on League activities during this year prior to the next convention, to which we will be host. However, it was recommended by the Trustees that next year the matter of subscription to the League Bulletin should be the concern of each individual member.

THE JUNIOR ASTRONOMER, a monthly publication of the League for Juniors, is being issued monthly under the guidance of Clarence Johnson of Schenectady. It was voted by the Trustees to purchase this for our Junior members. It is anticipated that copies starting with last September will be received and forwarded to all Junior Members.