

with a visit to their observatory and again observing if the skies are clear. Tentative plans call for the visiting of one or more of the Radio Astronomy projects currently in operation near here.

Bob Wright has been appointed convention manager. The convention committee is composed of the following committee chairmen: Registration - Mrs. Ione Alston; Exhibits - Miss Mabel Sterns; Hospitality - Mrs. Janet P. Wright; Trips - Mr. Leo Scott; Program Facilities - Mr. Lyle Johnson; Publicity - Mr. Abraham Robinson; Convention Treasury - Miss Betty Fazekas.

Other members of the committees will be announced at a later time. It is expected that every member of the NCA will be called upon to help in some capacity. If not prior to the convention, we hope that every NCA member will be present at the convention and help to make this one of the most successful League conventions.

It is the plan of the registration committee to function not only for the three days of the convention but also to handle hotel reservations for several days before and several days after the convention for any of those who wish to spend extra time sightseeing. At the last meeting of the NCA our members were asked to register for the convention. A total of 17 registrations was received by Mrs. Alston. It is hoped that this can be brought up to at least 50 at the January meeting. Registrations for our members will be only \$1.00. The money for the trips need not be paid until later.

NO NCA MEMBER WANTS TO MISS THE CURRENT NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC exhibit of photographs of our solar system taken with the 200" telescope. The National Geographic Building is located on the corner of 16th and M Streets, N. W. It is open from 9:00 until 4:30 every day except Saturday and Sunday. The planets Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn are included in the series. The first good lunar photograph ever taken with the 200" is also shown. It is the large walled plain, Clavius. Exhibit is on through January 6.

Jewell Boling, Editor, 1717 P St., N.W. North 7-9621

STAR DUST
National Capital Astronomers
Washington, D. C.

January 1953

Vol. 10, No. 5

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER ISSUE

JANUARY CALENDAR

Jan. 3 "THE LIGHT FROM PLANETARY NEBULAE," Mr. J. M. Kendall, physicist of the U. S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory. Commerce Auditorium, 8:15 p. m.

Jan. 17 DISCUSSION GROUP. Open house for exhibiting astronomical photography. 8:00 p. m. Commerce Foyer.

Tuesday and Friday, 7-10 p. m. Telescope Making Class, Roosevelt High School, Room 319, 13th and Upshur Sts., N. W. Miss Irene Warthen, Instructor. Telephone LO 5-1237. Miss Warthen is present on Tuesdays.

"THE LIGHT FROM PLANETARY NEBULAE" - The word "nebula" is used in astronomy to denote any object outside the solar system which occupies a perceptible area in the sky and which cannot be resolved by large telescopes into stars. "Planetary Nebulae" are objects having small, well defined circular or elliptic disks which often resemble those of planets.

Planetary nebulae are not to be confused with spiral nebulae which are distant galaxies. Such nebulae are located within our own galaxy and have been considered to be expanding shells of gases, very rarified, but of enormous size, probably produced by old novae explosions. The old novae now serve as exciting stars to provide the shortwave (ultraviolet) radiation, which through rather complicated processes within the planetary cause them to radiate a relatively large amount of visible light. The spectrum is of a type which cannot be duplicated within the laboratory and was believed to contain a new element tentatively called

"Nebulium". However, these nebulae have been found to be composed of ordinary gases, such as hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, neon, etc.

J. M. Kendall, the speaker for our January meeting, is one of the members of the National Capital Astronomers. He is presently employed as a physicist at the U.S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory and his interest in astronomy is that of an amateur, concerned with the theoretical aspects of the subject. The material for the lecture was gathered in connection with a course taken for his master's degree at the University of Maryland. The lecture will be illustrated by slides.

HAVE YOU TAKEN ANY PICTURES OF THE HEAVENS OR OBSERVATORIES? - Then the Discussion Group, January 17, is the night set aside for you. Bring your photographs and your slides of the heavenly objects, so we can see your good fortune in picture taking, and exchange notes on methods and procedures. Then, if the evening is not all taken, we can proceed to pictures of observatories and general astronomical interest. We will have the slide projectors and screen, and can arrange for movie projectors if you let us know ahead in the event you have movies to bring to this Discussion Group.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DALLAS CONVENTION, July 4-6, will be issued shortly. You will enjoy reading the papers that were presented and learning about the other events at the convention. Orders may be placed with Mr. James V. Karle, 10925 S.W. 49th Avenue, Portland 19, Oregon. One dollar per copy.

THE GRAPHIC TIME TABLE OF THE HEAVENS has again been purchased by the NCA for distribution to all members and is enclosed. Those who attended the December meeting enjoyed the lecture of Mr. Carroll F. Merriam, who gave us some of the background of the development of this sheet. If you do not have use for the extra copy which you received at the meeting, why not hand it to a friend?

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1953 ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE CONVENTION - We are sure that you heard it before and we are sure you will be hearing a great deal more about it as the months go by-- the general Convention of the Astronomical League is to be held here in Washington over the Labor Day weekend September 4-7, 1953.

The registration, exhibits, and convention sessions will be held at the Carnegie Institution of Washington located at 16th and P Streets, N. W. The principal housing facilities will be at the Cairo Hotel, 16th and Q Streets, N.W.

We, the National Capital Astronomers, are the hosts for this convention. We are responsible for all of the arrangements of the convention with the exception of the program. The Program Chairman will be appointed by Mr. Rolland LaPelle, President of the AL. Arrangements have already been made for a trip through the Naval Observatory on Friday evening, September 4. This will include observing if the weather permits. The National Capital Astronomers will hold open house at their observatory at the same time. Saturday evening there will be a buffet supper on the Georgetown Observatory grounds

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