

NEW MEMBERS

Vernon T. Brauns, 6825 Seventh Street, N. W., Washington 12, D. C. Taylor 9-8356
 Donald Patrick Fleming, 3413 Wisconsin Avenue, Washington 16, D. C.
 Lewis T. Milliken, 4907 North 26th Street, Arlington 7, Virginia Jackson 7-7612
 The Dellers admitted in February, now have a telephone-King 8-6391

PROGRAM FOR OBSERVING FIREBALLS - The McMillan Observatory of Ohio State University has been requested by Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to cooperate with them in gathering reports of fireball sightings so that reports of unidentified objects, from pilots and other observers, can be correlated, in so far as possible, with astronomical phenomena. The McMillan Observatory is glad to cooperate with the Air Forces in an attempt to provide rational explanations for sightings which appear mysterious to the astronomically uninitiated, and has requested assistance from other astronomical groups. Lyle Johnson will collect all reports from NCA members and forward them to the McMillan Observatory. Any individual NCA member who sights a fireball should drop a note to Lyle stating merely the time and place and approximate magnitude of the fireball or other object. If the data includes altitude and azimuth of beginning and end points of the meteor trail, so much the better. However, the important purpose of this is for the Air Forces to be able to establish that on such-and-such a date and time a bona fide fireball was sighted.

YOUR NCA EDITOR would like to say this to the several NCA'ers who communicated with her about her recent letter to the WASHINGTON POST on daylight saving time. The letter contained several quotations from astronomical writers stating the fundamental objection to advanced time that it robs us of the true situation of time as related to the natural phenomena of the day. However, the POST editor edited out all reference to this, thus destroying the point of the letter.

Jewell Boling, Editor 1717 P St., N. W. (6) NO 7-9621

STAR DUST
 National Capital Astronomers

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MAY CALENDAR

- Date
- May 2 "BUILDING AN OBSERVATORY," Dr. Paul S. Watson, Curator of Astronomy, Maryland Academy of Sciences. Commerce Auditorium, 8:15 p. m.
 - May 16 DISCUSSION GROUP. 8:00 p. m. Commerce Auditorium. This is the last discussion group of the season.
 - May 20 OBSERVATION OF THE MOON at the NCA Alvin Clark 5-inch. Naval Observatory. 9:00 p. m.
 - May 21 "RECENT ADVANCES IN ASTRONOMICAL PHOTOGRAPHY," 20th annual James Arthur lecture on the sun, Smithsonian Institution. Given by Dr. C. E. Kenneth Mees, Director, Eastman Kodak Company. Illustrated. Auditorium, National Museum, 10th and Constitution Avenue, 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 Irene Warthen, Instructor. Telephone LO 5-1237. Miss Warthen is present on Tuesdays.

BUILDING AN OBSERVATORY - Perhaps you might be planning to build your own observatory some day but are putting it off as a large undertaking. If so, you will be encouraged by the experience of one who has just completed his private observatory to house a 12" Newtonian reflector, after working on it in his spare moments over a period of four years. For one who has never built anything larger than a dog house before, the building of an observatory proved to be quite an undertaking. However, Mr. Paul S. Watson, Curator of Astronomy at the Maryland Academy of Sciences, who is the speaker at our May meeting, will

tell you from his own experience, how it is done. The talk will give a step-by-step description of the construction of the building, the various problems encountered and how they were solved; and will also show how a silo roof was converted into a revolving astronomical dome with shutters.

Mr. Watson is a native of Baltimore and is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University. He has been associated with the Maryland Academy of Sciences since his first year of college, starting on a part-time basis. He was subsequently made a full-time assistant in the Observatory, assistant curator, and then full curator in 1942. Since 1948, Mr. Watson has also been director of the Davis Planetarium. The lecture will be illustrated with slides.

--Abraham Robinson

ELECTION OF OFFICERS for the year beginning September 1953 will be held at the May meeting. The Nominating Committee presented the following slate:

For President	Grace C. Scholz
For Vice-President	William L. Isherwood, Jr.
For Secretary	Elizabeth Goerner
For Treasurer	Elizabeth Fazekas
For Trustee, 4-year term	Joy J. Walls
For Trustee, unexpired term to September, 1955	Dana K. Law

Further nominations may be made from the floor at the time of election. The election of officers is an important time for the NCA, and an occasion in which we wish all NCA members possible to participate. May we urge that all members of the NCA be present for this election? If you normally come only to the lecture, please remain for the business session. The election will be the first item of business.

ABOUT FIFTY PEOPLE attended EXPLORING THE SKY on April 19. Eight telescopes were set up. The skies cleared a few minutes before eight and everybody had a chance to look. It was very cold and the group scattered early.

OBSERVATION AT THE ALVIN CLARK 5-INCH - On Wednesday evening May 20 there will be observing of the moon at the NCA telescope at the Naval Observatory. The moon will be at first quarter. It should be remembered that you must show your NCA membership card to gain admittance to the grounds and that the NCA building is the only place you should go on the grounds except for the administration building.

RESIGNATION OF TRUSTEE - At the April meeting of the NCA it was announced that Mr. Ned Johnston had resigned as Trustee. During the two years he served he found that his work interfered very frequently, and he felt it advisable to resign. He expressed continued interest in the NCA and a desire to do what he could to be of assistance. This vacancy must be filled by an election to complete the unexpired term, ending September 1955. The Nominating Committee has presented the name of Dana K. Law. The election will be held at the May meeting.

EXHIBITS FOR THE CONVENTION - We should like very much to have many of the NCA members plan to exhibit at the Convention. From the past astronomical hobby shows that we have held we know that there are many things owned by NCA members that should be placed on exhibit. The same type exhibits that we have had for our hobby shows are needed for the convention. It would be appreciated if those that have things that can be exhibited would contact Miss Mabel Sterns, Chairman of Convention Exhibits, and tell her about them.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION - At this writing there are about 90 persons registered for the convention. About 50 of these are NCA members. We feel that every NCA member should register for the convention. The usual registrations for these conventions runs around 230. It is the hope of the committee that this year the registration will be over the 300 mark. We hope that all NCA members will register. Registration fee of \$1.00 should be given to Mrs. Ione Alston.