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"THE EXPANSION OF THE UNIVERSE," by Paul Couderc, is a recent book on cosmology which will be of much interest to those who want a thorough technical coverage of the subject. He explains the significance of the great discoveries by astronomers from Bessel to Shapley, Hubble, and Zwicky; the relationship of the basic laws of Newton and Einstein; the difficulties encountered in applying the general theory of relativity; and the ways out of these difficulties proposed by Einstein himself, by deSitter, Eddington, Friedman, Lemaitre and others. Theories of the expanding universe according to the Friedman-Einstein and Lemaitre-Eddington models are examined and briefer references are made to the cosmologies of Milne, Hoyle, Bondi, Jordan, and others. The book has an excellent bibliography on cosmology covering both Theoretical works and those which are chiefly Observational and Descriptive.

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES

On August 13 Mercury is a good morning star low in the east just before sunrise.

Venus is a bright morning star all month, dominating the eastern sky for about three hours before sunrise.

Mars is a morning star but not well placed for observation.

Jupiter is a morning star seen in the east before sunrise. It is higher than Venus, but not so bright.

Saturn is in Virgo just north of Spica and is visible low in the southwest for a few hours after sunset.

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

STAR DUST
National Capital Astronomers

August 1953 Vol. 10, No. 11

AUGUST CALENDAR

August 11 PERSEID METEOR COUNTING - 6:30 P. M. Picnic (Tuesday) Grove No. 17, on Glover Road, just south of Military Road and Oregon Avenue, N. W.

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.

Note: Due to the fact that the Astronomical League Convention will be taking place here during the first week-end in September, there will not be a September lecture meeting of the NCA.

PERSEID METEOR COUNTING - On Tuesday, August 11, we shall participate in an 'Evening Adventure' as a part of the outdoor program of the National Capital Parks. Since this is also the time of the Perseid meteors, we will also make it an outing for the National Capital Astronomers. We have been invited to take part in the normal 'Evening Adventure' program, starting at 6:30. Before the meal a short walk is conducted. Then comes time for a picnic supper. Bring your own food. A fireplace is available, but packed lunches are recommended. This is followed at about 8:00 p. m. with a gathering around the campfire and a program conducted by the Park Naturalist. There will probably be games centered around astronomy, after which we will have opportunity to see the 4-day old moon through our telescopes. Please bring your portable telescope if you come. Twilight lasts until about 9:30. The people who normally attend this activity are being invited to remain with members of the NCA to observe the constellations and count meteors. You are invited to come and join the group any time during the

evening. We shall probably be there for some time after 9:30 if the seeing is good. The place, Picnic Grove No. 17, on Glover Road, just south of Military Road and Oregon Avenue, N. W.

CONVENTION PLANNING has been progressing all summer. The Exhibit Committee's plans are well in hand. Details for the Registration Desk have been worked out, and hotel reservations have been made for all those from out-of-town who have made this request. Present registrations are close to the 200 mark; NCA members are now being contacted to assist in various duties. If you are interested in any of the following, please let us know: (1) Since the Exhibit Room cannot be closed, we will need someone to be with the exhibits during all times when Carnegie is open. Periods are divided into two or three hours. Call Miss Sterns about this. (2) At Naval Research Laboratory we will need at least a dozen persons to stand at strategic points to guide the group and see that persons do not wander to unauthorized points. Call Leo Scott about this. (3) At the Naval Observatory we will need someone on duty on our 5" telescope, and several others to assist where needed in ushering the group. (4) At Georgetown Observatory we will need "hostesses" at the buffet supper. (5) During the opening hours of the convention we will need persons to answer questions from our guests about the convention, Washington, sightseeing, transportation, and restaurants. This information is being collected by the Hospitality Committee. Call Janet Wright if you are interested in 3, 4, or 5. To assist in identifying persons, we will provide a special badge for NCA members.

All those who have registered for the convention have received a notice about the opening activities, and a reminder to return an 'Activity Sheet'. There are many NCA members who have not registered. If you do not register prior to the convention it will be impossible for you to make the trip to Naval Research Laboratory, or to attend the buffet supper at Georgetown Observatory. Registration is now \$1.50, and should be sent to Mrs. Ione Alston, 20 Flattsburg Court, N. W., Washington 16, D. C. (Telephone Woodley 6-9819)

If you are making the visits, but do not wish to use the chartered bus service, please let us know so we will not charter more buses than necessary.

Registration for the convention, where you will pick up your badge and bus tickets, will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, September 4, at the Carnegie Institution, 16th & P Streets, N. W. The chartered buses will leave Carnegie Institution for the Naval Observatory at 7:30. The registration desk will remain open until 9:00 p. m. Friday. Registration will continue, starting at 8:00 a. m., Saturday morning, September 5. The Middle East Regional Meeting, which our members should attend, will start at 9:00 a. m. and the opening session of the convention will be at 10:00 a. m.

We hope to see all NCA members at some of the convention sessions. You are reminded that we are the host society. We will have badges for our members which will make it easy for our guests to identify us. Let's do all that we can to make this an enjoyable convention for all those who attend.

-- Janet Wright

TELESCOPE FOR SALE - We have received a letter asking if any one in our society is interested in buying a Unitron 2.4" equatorial refractor telescope. This telescope is said to be in good-as-new condition, about two months old. The price new is \$233.95 (includes a 7mm eyepiece), and it is being offered for \$200. If interested, contact William H. Black, 2402 Wedgewood Avenue, Richmond 28, Virginia. Telephone Richmond 84-4964.

NEW MEMBER

*Jeff McAnally, 4922 Brandywine Avenue, N. W. (16)
EM 2-8255