

satellites. Dr. Edson is now in the Office of the Chief of Ordnance Research and Materials Branch.

--- R. F. Heisey

JUNIORS - During the coming year I will direct the special NCA activities for Juniors over 12. Any Juniors in this age group who are interested in special guidance should call or write me with suggestions on what they would like in the way of activities such as observing at the NCA 5-inch telescope at the Naval Observatory, astronomical discussion meetings similar to the adult ones, or assistance in astronomical projects, etc. If enough interest is shown, we will have a meeting in the near future.

--- Leith Holloway
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LUNAR OCCULTATIONS FOR OCTOBER

Date	Star	Mag.	Age	Phase	E. S. T.
16	Kappa Psc	4.9	12.9	D	8:56.6 P.M.
16-17	BD + 1° 4744	5.6	13.1	D	2:59.2 A.M.
23-24	Chi ¹ Ori	4.6	20.1	R	12:15.0 A.M.
23-24	Chi ² Ori	4.7	20.2	R	5:50.8 A.M.
26-27	60 Cnc	5.7	23.2	R	3:55.6 A.M.

OBSERVATIONAL DATA

Mercury is a morning star in October. It reaches greatest western elongation on the 11th and may be seen at this time low in the east just before sunrise. Venus is a morning star visible in the east for a few hours before sunrise. The planet is in conjunction with Jupiter on the 25th at 3:15 A. M. (EST). Mars is in Aquarius and is visible until after midnight. It is stationary in right ascension on the 12th and then resumes direct motion. Jupiter is a morning star and rises several hours ahead of the sun. Saturn is very

During the 1957-58 IGY we hope to have answers to questions such as: Is the climate of the whole earth warming up? Is there danger that melting icecaps eventually may flood populated coastal lowlands. 5,000 scientists from 40 countries will take part in the IGY. Plans are being made for 30 bases in Antarctica by eleven governments. France, Great Britain, USSR, and the US last year launched expeditions. The United States aimed its construction at McMurdo Sound and at Little America.

Of lasting impression was Commander Snay's description of the extreme difficulty under which the Operation labored in setting up camp at Little America. How in the summertime the ice grew thin, making progress very difficult; how in the wintertime operations could go on only by means of hand fabricated tunnels built from one building to the next; how the blinding snow became a physical handicap and how treacherous crevasses covered with thin layers of snow became pitfalls.

On the other hand, he described the extraordinary beauty of a white, quiet and peaceful land, with some of the most beautiful color photography of exquisite scenery one can imagine. He explained how the extreme temperature forms a natural refrigerator which preserves everything year after year, be it food or shelter; how the playful penguins became a source of entertainment and how just being a part of the Operation became a challenge and an unforgettable experience.

--- Elizabeth Goerner

NEIGHBORHOOD ASTRONOMY

Neighborhood astronomy hobby guidance groups for juniors generally under 12 years of age are being conducted by the following adults:

low in the southwest at sunset and sets soon after. The date of maximum intensity for the ORIONID meteor shower is October 22. This shower averages 20 meteors per hour. On the 15th at 11:00 (P.M. (E.S.T.)) the Milky Way spans the heavens from east to west crossing just north of the zenith, and passing through Auriga, Perseus, Cassiopeia, Cygnus, and Aquila.

--- A. L. White

THE MARS PICNIC on September 9 turned out to be the biggest NCA has ever had - but rightly so since we now have the largest membership in the history of our society; and it was indeed gratifying to see a great participation by our new members. Then of course, Mars is a great attraction these days, to all of us, and our meteorologists did provide just about the most perfect weather ever seen in these parts. The few clouds in the sky in the late afternoon dared do nothing but disappear when 78 astronomers (including the kids) met at Manassas Battlefield Park. But just as we had hoped - without fingers crossed - it was so dark and clear out there that you almost had the feeling of being above the earth's atmosphere with no interference of the viewing whatsoever. In fact, it got so dark that we could hardly see any of the 16 telescopes or the people there and had to feel our way around, but we could see the Milky Way from horizon to horizon, and the whole sky looked like an inverted bowl of diamonds on black velvet. Whole families came with their children, and the telescopes ranged from the juniors' moonscopes to very fine, large instruments. It seems we saw everything the heavens could possibly offer. Before sundown several people looked at sunspots, and at twilight everyone was watching the moon going down and Mars coming up big and brassy. Later we saw globular clusters, the Andromeda nebula, and numerous nebulae in Sagittarius. Ellis Marshall reported seeing three meteors, "bigger and brighter than ever before", and as we started home we saw one as a brilliant lantern falling from the northern sky. It was interesting to notice that two glowing

objects kept descending after it had burned out. Bob McCracken saw this too and said he would report it to the Smithsonian Institute. Several people saw the polar caps of Mars but few claimed to see the markings, the reason postulated to be the present dust storms which are also held accountable for the yellow color the planet had instead of the martial red. Nearly everyone had brought a picnic supper, and astronomical quantities of coffee were consumed during the evening in the picnic grove where Trudy Dellar was most helpful with the coffee pot as we kept the fires going while the temperature dropped down in the fifties. We met several friends of our members', and a group of students and a teacher from Wakefield High School were our guests. Mr. Clarence Johnson, Chairman of Junior Activities of the Astronomical League, who was visiting this area, was our special guest and we got to know him as a most congenial and interesting person. Thelma Cressy was on hand with her expert advice in the arrangements to help make a successful picnic. As we came back to town, the city lights obscured the seeing again and only Mars hung clearly as a beacon over our heads.

--- Tove Neville

"THE IGY IN THE ANTARCTIC" proved to be a fascinating subject. The illustrated lecture presented on Sept. 7 by Commander Charles Snay, U.S.N., Chief, Communications Officer for Operation Deepfreeze, was thoroughly enjoyed by a good-sized and appreciative audience. Commander Snay defined the purpose of the IGY, giving a brief history by telling us that this will be the third in a series of International Years, continuing a tradition started by the First International Polar Year of 1882-83, which contributed much to our knowledge of northern lights and the Far North magnetism and weather.

The Second International Polar Year in 1932-33 brought new knowledge of radio communication and opened the way for many electronic advances, such as radar.