

A.A.V.S.O.

SOLAR DIVISION BULLETIN.

Neal J. Heines Editor.

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560 Broadway,  
Paterson 4, N.J.

The AAVSO meeting at Williams Observatory, Hood College, Fredrick, Md., on May 16th., and 17th., was one that will long be remembered by those that were present. Professor Leah B. Allen the director of the observatory, and college president Dr. Stair were delightful hosts. There existed a spirit of southern hospitality that made one feel as though one belonged.

AAVSO details will be published later in Variable Comments and in Popular Astronomy under "Variable Stars" by Mr. Leon Campbell.

The Solar Division had an active part in the program. Those connected with it, that were present, were Mr. Ralph N. Buckstaff of Oskosh, Wisconsin, Mr. H. B. Rumrill of Berwyn, Pennsylvania, Dr. J. C. Bartlett of Baltimore, Maryland, and Mr. C. Slemaker of Washington D.C.

The following papers on solar work were presented.

1. "The Current Peak Of Solar Activity And Some Effects On Radio Transmission."  
Dr. Harlan T. Stetson.
2. "Granulations and Color In Sunspots."  
Dr. J. C. Bartlett.
3. "Light Absorption In Colored Glass." ( with respect to solar observations)  
Mr. H. B. Rumrill.
4. "An Apparent Earth-Effect Upon Sunspot Activity."  
Mr. H. B. Clough.
5. "Climate In The Upper-Midwestern United States And Its Relation To Sunspots."  
Mr. F. J. Ryder.
6. "Life Among Sunspots."  
Mr. Walter G. Bowerman.

The above papers are all destined for publication, notice of which, will be given later.

A Solar Division exhibit was arranged at the Observatory, consisting of S.D. Observers and their equipment, the Nov. 1946 Eclipse photos of Rev. Kearons as well as some of his recent sunspot photos, and, sunspot photos of Gordon Newkirk of Harvard University one of our members, sunspot photos of Henry Power M.D. of Palo Alto, California, Mr. Jr. Smith of Columbia Junction, Iowa and Mr. James Hillebrand of Detroit, Michigan. Sunspot drawings by Reverend H. Kitley, Gosford NSW Australia, and Mr. Joseph A. Swaelen of Berchem-Antwerp, Belgium. A series of illustrations in oil, of Granulations, and, Color in sunspots by Dr. J. C. Bartlett were also in the exhibit. Many fine comments were made on the exhibit and what it represented.

We are, at this writing, in the midst of some peak sunspot activity with spot counts well over 300. There were no such great values in the previous sunspot cycle. In fact, the highest observed mean values found in the Zurich tables were 154.4 with a smoothed mean of 151.3 for the year 1778.

The present cycle will make history and we are indeed fortunate to have the privilege of observing in it.

Literature released this past month of interest to us is as follows;

1. "The suns short regular variation and its large effect on terrestrial temperatures."

Dr.C.G. Abbott

Published by Smithsonian Institution Washington D.C.

Smithsonian Misc.Col. Vol 107 No. 4

Price 30 cents.

2. "Most Cold Waves Come When Sun Is Spottiest."

Science Weekly News Letter.

Science Service Washington, D.C.

Price 15 cents.

3. "How To Chart."

Walter E.Weld.

Codex Book Co.Norwood,Mass.

Price \$2.00

4. " Drought - Its Causes and Effects ." By Ivan Ray Tannehill.

Princeton University Press \$2.00

5. "Physical Characteristics of Sunspots." By Mr.H.B.Rumrill.

Popular Astronomy May Issue.

Vol.IV No 5 pp 244-258.

Recently there was formed an astronomical society in Peru known as ASOCIACION PERUANA DE ASTRONOMIA. Its president is Sr. Victor A. Estramadoyro, our excellent solar division observer. Mr.Estramadoyro writes that the society has started a library and would welcome some American astronomy text. If you have some text in duplicate or other astronomical works which you could spare they would be greatly appreciated by this new organization, our southern neighbors and colleagues. Send same to Mr Estramadoyro, Enrique Palacios 167, Chorrillos (Lima) Peru, South America.

The death of Mr.Knox Lee is a great loss to the Solar Division. If ever there was a Harlan T.Stetson 's, type observer, ( his letter to us Dec.4,1944, " A faithful observer is one who would look upon missing a single days possible observation as a tragedy -----."), it was Knox Lee. God Rest His Soul. I miss him. It would be a splendid token of friendship if you would address a card or note of sympathy to the family remaining. Send same to Mrs. Bessie Kaddy Lee, 406 Shirley Street, Marshall, Texas.

If you do not find your name on the monthly reductions report it is because your monthly sunspot report has not reached us by the tenth of the new month, which is the closing date of our schedule with Washington. There are relatively few who miss this date occasionally in this country but we would like to make it 100 per cent if possible. We receive reports from Mr.George Caraioryis, Khartoum, Sudan, South Africa, Air Mail in time so surely we in the U.S. can easily get your report to this office by the 10th or earlier. Other foreign observers, whose reports arrive post schedule, can rest assured that their reports are being used for purposes just as important as the monthly determination of the Preliminary sunspot number .

Mr.Knox Lee.

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We grieve to announce, the death, of Mr.Knox Lee, of Marshall, Texas on April 9th., 1947.

Mr.Lee was a solar observer prior to the inception of the AAVSO Solar Division and faithfully, even during several periods of illness, submitted regular monthly reports to us.

His many letters to the chairman revealed great devotion to the sciences, more especially, astronomy. He was also an observer of Variable Stars, and became one of the leading amateur astronomers of the great southwest.

His home, at 406 Shirley Street, was often visited by many friend and organized groups to view the heavens through his self-constructed telescope, and to hear his lectures on the observed objects.

Mr.Lee was a graduate of the Texas A & M in electrical engineering. From engineer to division manager and finally Vice President of the Southwestern Gas and Electric Company exemplified his industry and devotion to duty.

In civic affairs, Service Clubs, Chamber Of Commerce President, Fraternal work in the Masonic Order, activities connected with the war effort he always gave of himself unselfishly without thought of glory and praise.

Mr.Lee is survived by his widow, Mrs. Bessie Kelley Lee. two daughters and two sons. His devotion to them and they to him was outstanding in his correspondence with the chairman of the Solar Division.

Standing by his side in his few remaining hours, we choose the word of Mr.Alfred Noyes , from his "Watchers Of The Skies"

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Put out the lamp, now. Draw those  
curtains back,  
And let me die with starlight on my face.  
An angel's hand in mine . . . yes; I can  
say  
My nunc dimittis now . . . light, and more  
light  
In that pure realm whose darkness is our  
peace.