

A.A.V.S.O.

SOLAR DIVISION BULLETIN.

Neal J. Heines, Editor.

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P-13
P.O. BOX 2353.
Paterson New Jersey.

Solar activity continues to decline. The paucity of sunspots during February was commensurate with the phase of the present sunspot cycle, Number 18. At this writing, February 25th., Three days were spotless, namely the 3rd; 11; and 25th. - 26-27-28-29

TRAGEDY.

Mr. L. L. Brennan, our observer at Gosford, N.S.W., Australia, sent to us a news-paper clipping concerning the Bush-Fires of February 5th.,. In a previous letter Mr. Brennan wrote to us about the severe drought they were experiencing, and the dangers connected with situations of this kind. Then it happened.

According to Dr. A. R. Hogg, lightning struck shortly before noon Tuesday February 5th.,, near Canberra, and set the terrain in flames. The clipping revealed, " Bushfires, fanned by a 25m.p.h. wind with gusts reaching 50 m.p.h. caused a damage of approximately \$125,000 at Mount Stromlo Observatory. The Director of the Observatory, at this time, Prof. R. van der Reit Wooley said : "It is very fortunate that the main Observatory was only slightly damaged, but the Workshop, containing all of the precision instruments was completely destroyed. "The loss of this workshop is a great tragedy. We spent a long time building it up and it will take easily two years to replace. It means that many of the projects we have in mind will have to be put off. "Most of the personell were evacuated, but four women including the wives of the director and assistant director ran through a narrow path between two raging fires when it seemed that the main building of the Observatory was about to take fire. A sudden change of the wind diverted the fire almost at right angles to the observatory and sent it into a northerly direction thus preventing a total loss.

The REPRINT, enclosed, "GENERAL REMARKS ON SUNSPOT OBSERVATIONS" written by Mr. H. B. Rumrill, shortly before his death for SCIENTIA (Italy), is a gift of Mrs. Rumrill and her daughter Elizabeth. The distribution is limited to the observing section of the A.A.V.S.O. Solar Division. Kindly acknowledge, with thanks, to Miss Elizabeth Rumrill, Conestoga Road, Berwyn, Pennsylvania.

Considerable interest has been manifested during the past six months by some of the professional astronomers in our, SOLAR GRANULATIONS AND COLOR IN SUNSPOTS project. The importance of the studies, the observations and results, is evidenced by the request of the professionals for more material data. It is highly desirable that we obtain more observations from some of our foreign observers where seeing conditions are better than in some parts of these United States of America. Additional observers in our own country are also desired. In-

strumentation, accessories, for the Project are quite simple and inexpensive. The work itself, can be accomplished during the same period as that of the sunspot work, all that is required is the momentary exchange of an eyepiece and filter.

Full particulars can be obtained from the Chairman, Dr. James C. Bartlett, Jr., 300 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore 1, Maryland. (U.S.A.). We urgently request your participation in this worthy project.

Our attention has been called, recently, to a new book, by Mr. David W. Dewhirst, the Director of the British Astronomical Association. The work, "LE SOLEIL" by Georges Bruhat, a new edition brought up to date by Dr. L. D' Azambuja (member of the International Astronomical Union, with a placement on the Solar Commission of that organization) Mr. Dewhirst wrote, "The first edition was unknown to me, and I think that the book deserves to be better known than it is". The book is published by (Presses Universitaires de France). It's cost is 800 Francs. Text is in French. Order through your own dealer.



PERSONALS.

Her Own Words !!!

The accident occurred in no mundane way. I was skiing a beautiful "shims" (3 miles) from STELLAFANE to the hospital. It was a beautiful night and my eyes were on the glowing heavens as they should be, and not, on some insignificant obstruction along the ground. LO !!! HOW THE MIGHTY DO FALL !!!!

Report of the AAVSO(ers) to date.

Witherell	-	Treasurer. Operation November. Still in hospital.
Mayall	-	Recorder. Doing office work at home in bed.
Fernald	-	Ace observer. Broken bones in elbow. Ice-Fall .
Beardsley	-	Broken leg. Incapacitated until April.
Beetle	-	Bug hunting South America (could these be beetles?) or members of the family.

NO MORE PLEASE "!!!!!!"

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL MAIL TO US TO BOX 2353 , Paterson New Jersey, as this will help considerably in prompt receipt of same.

Statistics.

*The highest sunspot number as assigned at Solar Division Headquarters on February 13th., was 23. It represented an averaged sized group for this time of the present cycle and as having been displaced from the invisible solar hemisphere, in the south belt. The following day another small group, made its appearance under similar conditions, but, with higher north-latitude than is usual for this time of the cycle.

*Group counting reference for observers.

Feb.	50	May	44
Mar.	48	Jun.	42
Apr.	46	Jul.	40

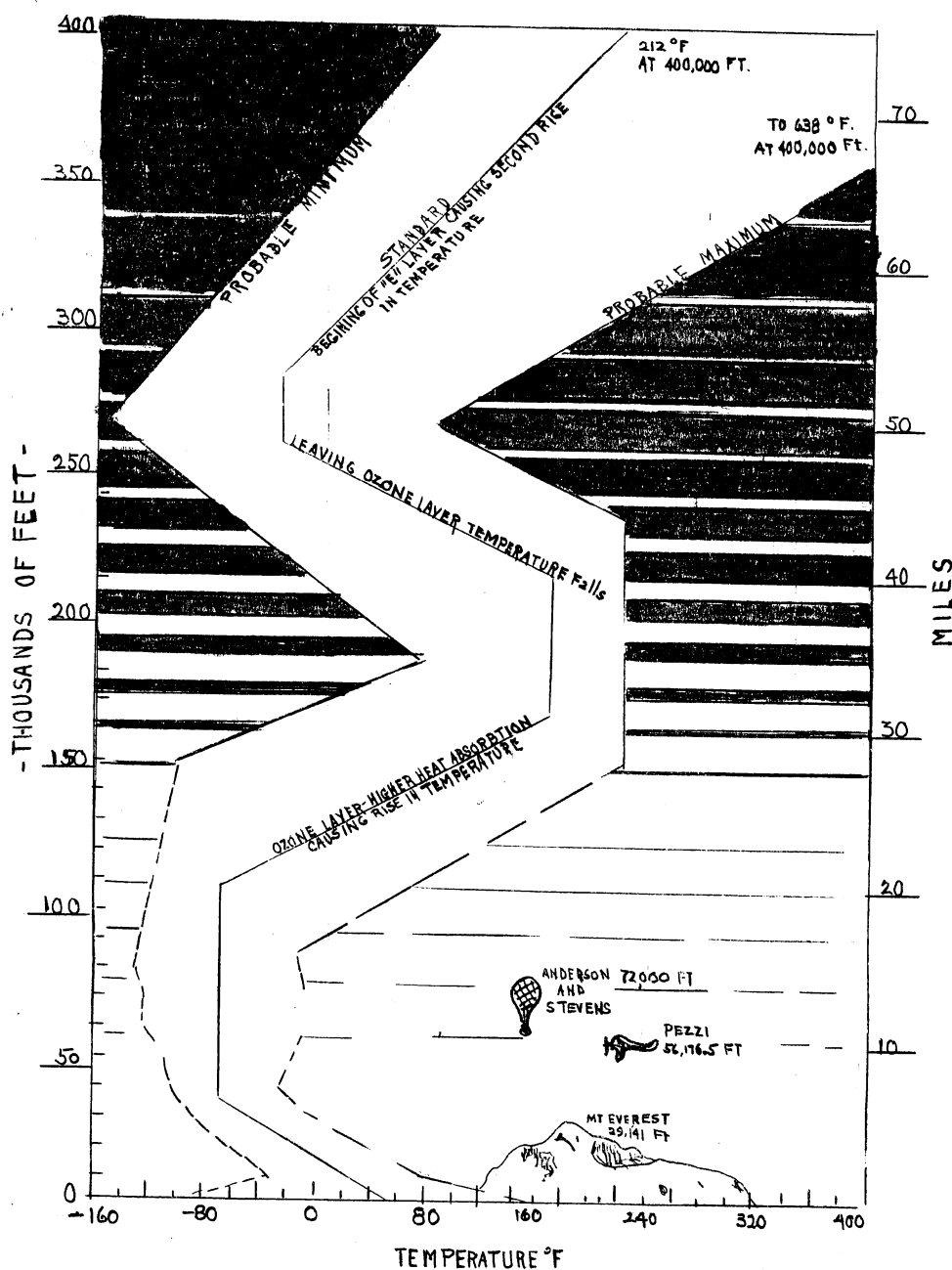
Naked - Eye sunspots were observed in January by members of the Montreal Centre, R.A.S. Canada; as follows.

Venor 1, Jan 15, - Wright 0, Zorgo 0, Scott Jan 11th 1, 16th., 1.

Supplied by Mrs. S Wright, Chairman.

PUBLICATIONS.

1. "Sun Affects The Weather" -----J. Namias.
Science Weekly News Letter Feb 9th., p.84.
2. "Flight at the Borders Of Space" ----- Heinz Haber.
Scientific American Feb. pp.20-23. (with solar relations).
3. "Astronautics Looks Ahead"--Internatl. Congress of Astronautics.
Sky and Telescope Feb Issue. pp 83-84. Additional Inf. to item 2.
4. "The General Circulation Of The Lower Atmosphere--- Pettersson.
Transactions N.Y. Academy of Sciences Dec. '51 p.113. Technical.
5. The Study Of Cycles ----- Dr. Harlan T. Stetson
Journal Of Cycle Research Vol.2 No.2 1951-52. Good reading.
6. The 700 year cycle of Climate and Aurora Borealis- Nishioka.
Cycles January 1952. Foundation For The Study of Cycles
7. The Quantum Theory ----- Darrow.
Scientific American March, pp.47-53. Inception of the theory
and early contributions to it by others.



NACA-TENTATIVE-STANDARD-ATMOSPHERE

Copied from the November Issue of The Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society. November 1947 Vol.28 No.9, p.425.

NOTE. February 26 was also a spotless day.
February 27 " " " " "
Watch carefully from now on for high latitude spots.