A.A.V.S.O.

SOLAR DIVISION BULLETIN.

Neal J.Heines,Editor.

May 1953. 1952 P.O.Box,2353.
Number 74. Page 201. Paterson,New Jersey.

The details for our spring meeting at Clarkson College of Technology, at Potsdam, New York are now complete.

Friday May 23, P.M. : Regristration;Physics Building.
Council Meeting; Physics Lounge.

Friday Evening. LECTURE."Radio,Radar, and Electronics In Relation To Astronomy."
Prof. Frank A.Record.

Saturday May 24.A.M. Registration 9:00 - 10:00 A.M.
Business Session and Presentation of Papers; 10:00 - Noon.

P.M. Group Photograph 12:15.

Luncheon 12:30.
Continuation Of Papers 2:00.
Guided tour of Campus follows afternoon meeting.

Dinner, 7.00 P.M. Student Union Building
$2.50-$3.00 Range.

ACCOMODATIONS:

Arlington Inn
Albion Hotel } Rates are Standard. $3.50 - $8.00

For those who choose the Arlington Inn, address ;

Mr. John Murphy. Mgr.
Arlington Inn, Potsdam, N.Y.

Tourist Homes are also available, write to;

Mr.Harold Gebo.
Housing Supervision,
Clarkson College Of Technology.
Potsdam, New York.

The current issue of the Bulletin will be short due to responsibilities connected with our A.A.V.S.O. Spring Meeting at Potsdam, New York. The June Bulletin will contain the full report as submitted to the American Association of Variable Star Observers.

We are pleased to report the condition of our very efficient treasurer, Mr. Percy W. Witherell. Mrs. M. Mayall, our recorder, writes, "He looks fine, but I don't know whether he is quite up to a trip that long." (Potsdam)

C.F. Fernald wrote, early in April, "Am coming along fine. No operation is necessary." We hope he can be present at our meeting.

We have had no word from Mrs. Beardsley, but we consider no news, good news.

It is always an extreme pleasure to watch the progress of our up-and-coming observers. In a much earlier bulletin, we related the story of Thomas A. Cragg, how he carried on during his military service at the time of the Second World War. On December 25, 1946, Tommy wrote us from Japan, "Of course, while I'm in the Army, there isn't much I can do along the line of Solar Studies, but just wait until I get out."

He did not wait to get out, but made naked-eye sunspot observations daily, weather permiting, and sent the records of these to Dr. Seth B. Nicholson at Mount Wilson. Mr. Cragg had already communicated this data for the previous two years to Dr. Nicholson.

At last the day came that Tommy was back from the war; that was April 11, 1947. He rounded up his telescopes which he had out on loan and his first sunspot report after his return was for May, 1947.

He attended again, much to his joy, his first meeting of the Los Angeles Astronomical Society on May 8, 1947 and found that during his absence the society had made him chairman of the Observing Committee. At this meeting, which was at the time of the Macimum portion of the 17th Sunspot Cycle, Dr. Seth B. Nicholson gave a lecture on "Recent Large Sunspots". The lecture was supplemented with some very interesting slides of the larger sunspot groups at that time. Tommy wrote, "The lecture was very well received by the members of the Los Angeles Astronomical Society. Dr. Nicholson pointed out the principle items of interest about the Sun, such as the law of polarity, the ways in shich sunspots group themselves; and the relation to the Earth as in radio communications and the like. Dr. Nicholson also showed some 'before and after' shots of high fares which he followed with slides showing the deviation of the compass needle and various other relations."

Cragg's next effort was to recruit observers on the West Coast, for the Solar Division of the A.A.V.S.O. He was successful in this and to date he is still active along those lines.

Late in December of 1946, Cragg and his friend, Anderson, made an overnight stay at Mt. Wilson and saw the "works". Prior to this visit, on the 26th, Cragg and LeVaux went to Mt. Wilson where Dr. Nicholson asked Cragg to prepare a short article on Naked Eye Sunspots which he had observed during the past three years. A small office was assigned to him for this purpose.

We next find Cragg at the Griffith Planetarium, where he was occupied in part time work. It was here that he first became aquainted with the use of the spectrohelioscope.

Next Cragg was privileged to attend the dedication of Mt. Palomar. It was from him that we received the bird story. (see Bulletin No. 32, July 1948)

In 1948,(New York Herald Tribune, Nov. 5th, John J. O'Neil reporting)"Cragg, using the 200" scope on Saturn, reported that instead of seven empty rings, or space gaps, there were only three. The remaining four are filled with ring material, but apparently of a darker kind that reflects much less sunlight than other parts of the disk,or perhaps is present in smaller amounts". This is still to be confirmed. (O'Neil's source, The Strolling Astronomer.)

At about this time Cragg began to report "light Penumbra Areas" to Solar Division Headquarters. This study is still going on and will until sufficient data is available to verify its continued existance. These reports were sent to Dr. W.O. Roberts at Climax, Colorado.

In 1951, October, Cragg was elected a Council member of the American Association of Variable Star Observers

On March 1st, Cragg entered a new phase of his life. He was made a Research Associate at Mount Wilson in the Solar Department. It would seem that his philosophy of life would be as follows;

Work, thou, for pleasure
Paint, or sing, or carve the thing thou lovest
tho' the body starve
He who works for glory, misses oft the goal:
He who works for money, coins his very soul:
Work for the work's sake, and it may be
That these things shall be added unto thee.

NOTE FOR OBSERVERS

On spotless days enter a zero in Columns "f","p" and "R".

STATISTICS

The total number of observed groups for the month of March was ---------- 9
Zurich's Provisional Sunspot Number for the month of March was---------- 21.2
The mean monthly Sunspot Area (U.S. Naval Observatory) for October was -- 870.
" " " " " " " " " November " --812.
" " " " " " " " " December " --- 644.

*The highest sunspot group number as assigned at Solar Division Headquarters was 36. I represented a small group, type C-3, in the South Belt. Its position was approximatly 13 degrees east of the Central Solar meridian and was not observed before 1900 U.T. Observers who made their only observation before 1700 U.T. April 17, would undoubtedly call the 17th as a zero day.

*Group counting reference for observers.

Predictions of smoothed monthly Sunspot Numbers for the next six months:

April	46	July	36
May	40	Aug.	35
June	38	Sept.	33

Released by Prof. M. Waldmeier, Director, Federal Observatory at Zurich, Switzerland, and transmitted by the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation.

No Naked-Eye Sunspots were observed during the month of March 1952. Reports received from the Montreal Centre, R.A.S. were those of S. Wright, Chairman and Miss Katherine Zorgo.

PUBLICATIONS

1. On the Foreshortening Law of Sunspots ---------- M. Hotinli
   Publications of the Istanbul University Observatory. No.42,pp 278-294
   Method is given to determine the law of foreshortening of sunspots.
2. The following papers are by A.E. Covington
   (a) Circular Polarization of 10.7 - Centimeter Solar Noise Bursts
   (b) Microwave Sky Noise
   (c) Some Characteristics of 10.7 - Centimeter Sky Noise, I,II.
3. (a) Trumpeter Swan over Culver Pond, Red Rock Lakes Refuge.--- W.E. Banko
   (b) Day Length Migration, and Breeding Cycles in Birds ------- A. Wolfson
   Of interest to Migratory Bird Study.
4. Sunspot Activity During 1951 ---------- Dr.S.Nicholson
   Publication of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific
   Vol. 64, No. 377 April 1952
   Interesting study of Return Grps., ETC.

Last month we included in our Bulletin, as a Supplement two charts.

1. Sixteen Miles Up.

2. The Great Unknown Overhead.

The data for these were found in earlier records and other text.

There are errors on the present Charts and our purpose in issueing these was to invite criticism, corrections, and , additional suggestions.

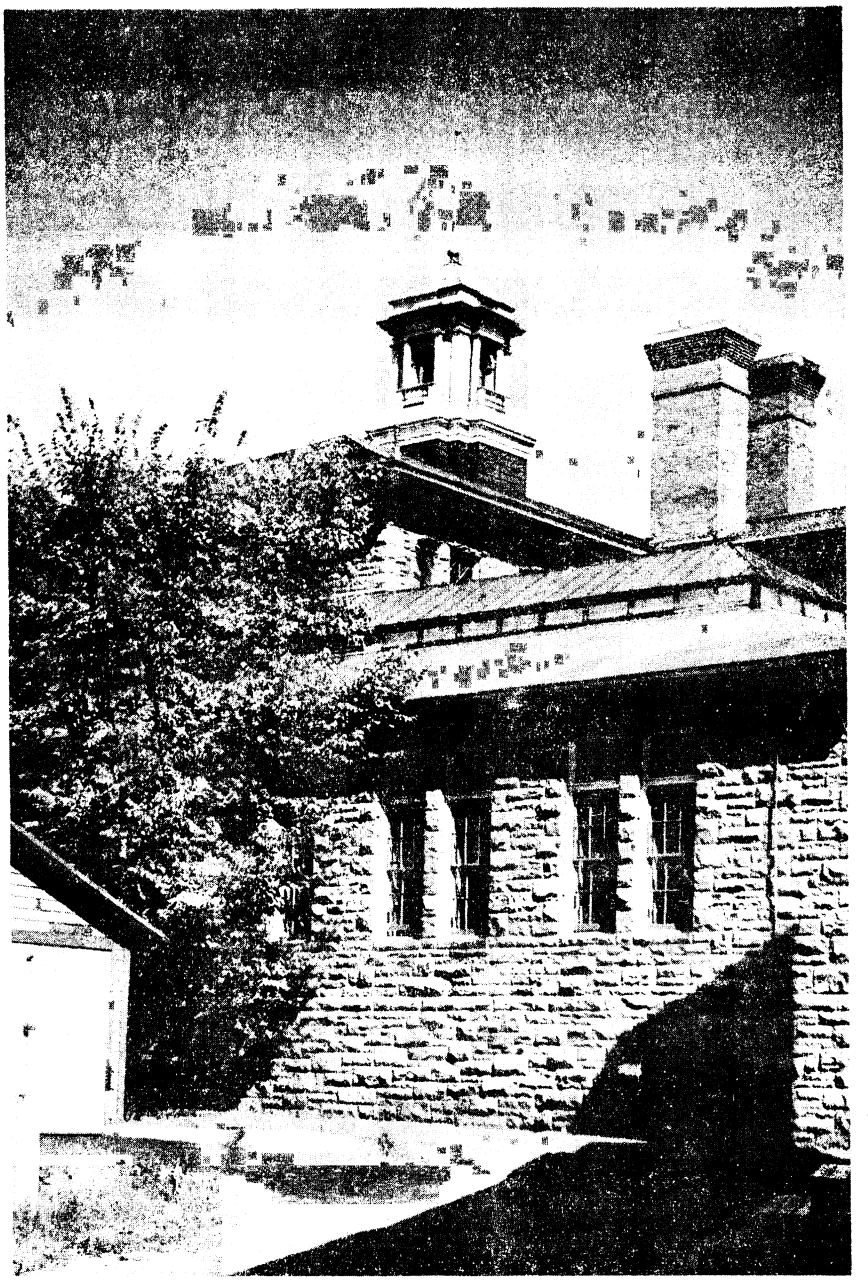
We have already received corrections from Dr.Donald H.Menzel, the Associate Director of Harvard College Observatory, and his colleague, at the Observatory, Dr.Fred L.Whipple.

We would greatly appreciate your corrections.

It is our plan to redraw these at a later date on a more scientific basis, after the additional corrections and suggestions are received.

With his March,Sunspot Report, Mr.George R. Warren , OF Westchester , Pa. sent us Curves showing Monthly Means, R_A against $R_i \times K$. This is a very interesting study. We will place it in a Bulletin in the near future. It would help us greatly if other observers would participate in a similar effort.

41ST SPRING MEETING
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF
VARIABLE STAR OBSERVERS.



CLARKSON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY.

POTSDAM NEW YORK

MAY 23-24, 1952.