

TWENTIETH CENTURY CLUB STUDIES ASTRONOMY

Astronomy was the subject for discussion at the weekly meeting of the Twentieth Century Study of Club last Tuesday evening with Oscar E. Monnig of Fort Worth the guest speaker. The meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Ted Chesley with Mr. and Mrs. John B. Sullivan joint hosts.

Mr. Monnig, who is the outstanding astronomer of the state, lectured on meteors to the following club members, their husbands and invited guests.

Dr. and Mrs. C. C. Baker, Sr.,
Dr. and Mrs. C. C. Baker, Jr.,
Mrs. Ben Beach, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Bratton, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Carter, Mrs. H. E. Chesley, Jr.,
Dr. and Mrs. R. A. Kooker, Dr. and Mrs. A. G. Livingston, Mrs. Merle Langford McKinley, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. McKinley, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Nix, Miss Kate Poston, Mr. and Mrs. George Scott, Mrs. John Talley, Mr. and Mrs. Brents Witty, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Edgar, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey McKinley and Miss Lyda White.

Invited guests were Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Santy, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil James, Mrs. H. E. Chesley and Miss Minnieola West.

Yellow and white chrysanthemums with ferns adorned the living room and dining room. After refreshments of ice cream, moon and star cookies and coffee the meeting was adjourned to the outdoors where an informal survey of the major constellations was made.

Meteorites May Be Found Near Here

More interest in astronomy was aroused in Hamilton this week than has ever been manifested here before when Oscar Monnig of Fort Worth visited Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Chesley and made two lectures to Hamilton groups on the subject. He spoke to the Twentieth Century Club and to guests at the Chesley home Tuesday night, and appeared before high school assembly Wednesday morning.

Meteors was Mr. Monnig's subject, and he states that meteorites are commoner than is generally supposed. Some 50 years ago a large one was found five miles south of Carlton, and there is reason to believe that others may be found in this vicinity.

The one found near Carlton became a nationally known museum piece, astronomers all over the world knowing of it and studying it.

Meteorites are scientifically important and worthy of study and preservation. Mr. Monnig, who

is the leading astronomer of the state, said while here. He is a member of the Texas Observers, an association of astronomers in Fort Worth and they are anxious to find and preserve as many Texas specimens as possible.

False Ideas Prevail.

Though most persons have gained the idea that meteorites may contain precious stones and valuable metals, they do not, asserted Mr. Monnig. They are either heavy rock or metallic iron mixed with a little nickel. For this reason those who find them should not break them open but leave this job for scientists who know how to do the job properly.

The iron specimens may be identified by grinding a smooth surface on some jagged corner. If the interior is bright, silvery looking metal, it is probably a meteorite. A smooth surface ground on a rock meteorite will expose small particles of bright metal.

J. T. Chesley, who is the leading amateur astronomer of this section, and V. M. Santy, science teacher at Hamilton High School, can aid in identifying specimens. They will appreciate it if anyone finding black or dark brown, irregular, heavy chunks of stone or metal which are apparently meteorites, would bring them in for inspection.

Though meteorites may appear in almost any form, they are usually very irregular in shape. None are known which are round or ball-shaped such objects being generally terrestrial "concentrations" of a common nature. The iron ones are very heavy, and most of the stone specimens are heavier than equal masses of ordinary stone.

In case you have a peculiar stone or piece of metal lying around the place, contact Mr. Chesley or Mr. Santy. It may be a meteorite which would be of scientific value.

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