
The Berkeley Conference for Astronomy Teachers¹

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The conference for astronomy teachers was sponsored by the National Science foundation, and was held at the Leushner Observatory of the University of California, Berkeley. This conference was organized by Professor Struve, head of the Department of Astronomy at the University of California, and by Professor Bart Bok, head of the Department of Astronomy at Harvard University. Twenty-five teachers from small colleges of different states were selected and invited to participate in the conference which lasted from August 12th till September 11th. The purpose of this conference was to bring the knowledge of the invited members up to date, to inspire them to do research in one of the different branches of Astronomy and to direct the attention of their students to the increasing importance of the field of astronomy and to point out to them the future possibilities in this branch of science.

The lectures offered during this conference were on an advanced level. Dr. Bok gave a series of lectures about the structure of our galaxy. The highlights in his lecture series consisted of a number of lectures about galactic and extragalactic Radio Radiation, discrete radio sources, 21 cm research.

Dr. Deutsch from the California Institute of Technology spoke about astrophysical problems of radio astronomy, advances on Solar Astronomy, Instrumentation for Stellar Astronomy and Spectroscopy. Dr. Van De Kamp from the National Science Foundation spoke about long focus Photographic Astrometry.

Dr. Struve gave 3 lectures about Double Stars. Dr. P. Herget from the Cincinnati Observatory lectured about Problems of Celestial Mechanics. Dr. Shane, Director of the Lick Observatory, gave a lecture concerning distribution about extragalactic Nebulae.

Dr. Irvin, Head of the Department of Astronomy at the University of Indiana, gave a series of lectures about; some Photoelectric Fundamentals. He outlined a curriculum for students who wish to go into the field of electrophotography. Dr. Irvin gave another very interesting report about

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color programs and purposes in which he mentioned that the National Science Foundation intends to build an Observatory on a National basis. Plans for the site of the Observatory were already submitted to the National Science Foundation. The prospective site would be the SAC peak in New Mexico. Time limitation permitted the speaker to mention only a few of the 58 lectures offered at Berkeley. Most members of the Conference, however, felt in spite of the highly interesting information they brought home from this conference that some kind of Lab in connection with this series of lectures might have enabled the participants to get acquainted with the new techniques applied in Astronomy. Five field trips were undertaken. The members visited the Morris Planetarium of the California Academy of Science at the magnificent Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. They were guests of Dr. Shane, Head of the Lick Observatory at Mt. Hamilton, 4209 feet above sea level and 40 miles south of San Francisco. They were conducted by the staff members of the Observatory through the new huge observatory with its 120-inch telescope which is still under construction and will be ready for use in February or March 1955. Seeing these masterful constructions the members of the conference could admire the combined skill of the scientists and engineers. The members were given at night the opportunity to observe through the telescope of the old Lick Observatory Mars, Saturn and a spiral nebula.

It is worthwhile to mention that the California State Legislature appropriated $1\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars to make possible the erection of the new Lick Observatory.

As guests of the Radiation Lab of the University of California on top of the Grizzly height at Berkeley we were given an opportunity to catch at least a glimpse of the vision which is now spurring scientists on to one of the most intensive group investigations in history. A six million dollar Bevatron will be ready for use sometime next year.

The conference was concluded with two field trips, one to the Mt. Wilson Observatory near Pasadena and one to the Mt. Palomar Observatory. The members used the few hours stay in Pasadena to pay a visit to the solar spectrograph in Pasadena.