

4-62

PAC

Prairie Astronomy Club

LINCOLN - NEBRASKA

April, 1962

The April 6th meeting was one of our best. Interest and discussion was very interesting. This little report to you was born at that meeting. We are wide open for Ideas, So lets have them. Pete Schultz has promised to edit and furnish astro news hot off his Harvard card scoop List. David Erbach was the tops on his Uranus Report, and Bill Chasson will give a report on Pluto next meeting.

We, at last meeting agreed to change meeting night to the first Wednesday in the month instead of First Friday, so put this down. Wed. May 2nd, Science Building Nebraska Wesleyan, 7:30 p.m. We found we cannot compete with ball games, dates, etc. on week-ends. May 2nd -- May 2nd ****

DID YOU KNOW? -- The maoris tribe of New Zealand knew about the Rings of Saturn and the Moons of Jupiter. **** Pete Schultz made the Lincoln Journal with his Seki-Lines picture of the Comet. ---- Club members want a Night show for themselves, to compare notes with the other Fellow ---

* Comet Seki-Lines Displayed a 20 DEG tail on April 6th. The tail appeared to hook around the stars, and hang suspended in the Earths clouds. On the 8th the nucleus had a faint Anti-tail. Having only a 15°DEG tail and fading in two days from O mag to first Mag the sight was still Great. On the 10th it revealed a straight tail with only a small hook about 12 DEG. Now fading on the 12th it was nearing MAG 3.5 with a kink near the head. Since then our Visitor has faded to near 5th Mag. We hope for reports from our Club members on Tail Length and any other features. But the watch isn't over as the latest card from Harvard notes that it will not fade from a four inch reflector until June. SEKI-LINES * path is just above the PLEIADES and toward Auriga. Right after SUNSET. * PETE SCHULTZ

PLANETS. Mercury is avoiding us this month in its 88 day journey around the sun.

VENUS is becoming interesting. Sets 1-1/2 hours after SUNSET. Reveals a 10.6 Disc. 94% illuminated. Large Scopes May Show Some Markings.

Mars, Jupiter, Saturn are pre-dawn objects. Rising an hour, 2 hours, 3 hours, respectively before the Sun in the Southeastern Sky.

URANUS is ideally placed for observation, being above and to the west of REGULUS (ie) half way between REGULUS and the first star IN SICKLE THO only 3"9 in Diam this is an easy task for a 4 inch to resolve, being a greenish tint DISC.

Moon* last QT April 27th. New Moon May 3rd.

METEORS* the lyrid meteors will be severly hampered this year due to the full moon. Ambitious observers may see them on April 22nd with only 15 meteors per hour under favorable conditions.

Much of the above has been taken from SKY and Telescope for the benefit of those who do not subscribe to the magazine, which we think should be a MUST. We can think of a lot more to put in but feel for a start this aint bad. Send any contributions to your Sec'y. Also any Scopes or Spare Parts you don't need. Some One Does. For now keep your glass clean and see all of us at the next meeting, May 2nd. You know where and when.

Pete Schultz Editor
 Jess Williams Sec'y.
 1315 South 40th Street

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