

Prairie Astronomy Club

LINCOLN - NEBRASKA

May, 1962

Our new meeting night seemed to be very adequate. Next meeting June 6th, 7:30 PM. Science Bldg., Nebr. Wesleyan. Bill Chasson sparked our last meeting with a report on PLUTO. ~~Rickie Johnson gave us a good report on Comets.~~

An Election was held and the following members were made your officers for the next year.

- Pres. - Jess Williams
- Vice Pres. - Werner Klammer
- Treas. - John Howe
- Sec. - Pete Schultz
- Prog. Dir. - Dick Hartley

A good discussion on general astronomy was carried on and nearly everyone took part. Seems most members like the free lance discussions as thru this they can introduce the subject upper most in their minds.

Sky Gazing.

Mercury - After a very favorable elongation, it becomes lost in the twilight by the end of the month.

Venus - Cant miss it in the evening sky, setting two hours after Sun.

Mars - Rises 1-1/2 hrs before the Sun but still hard to find.

Jupiter - Rises 3 hrs before the Sun.

Saturn - Rises about midnight in Capricornus.

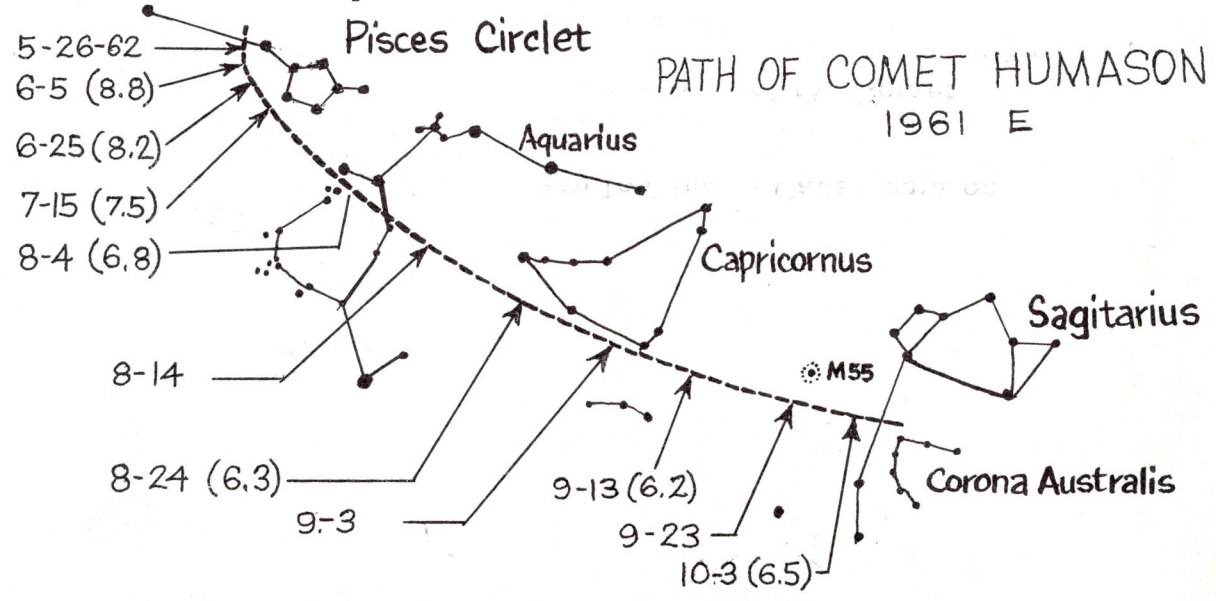
Uranus - Still close to Regulus and very favorably placed.

Neptune. An 8th mag, object. It came in oposition on May 3rd, being 2,724 Mil Miles from the Earth. It can be seen in Libra, 4 deg N. W. of Alpha Librae.

Moon. Last Qt May 26th. New Moon June 2nd.

COMETS** If you would have been looking in Cassiopeia on April 27th you would have discovered a new comete of mag 8. Since you Missed it they call it COMET HONDA (1962d) and is now close to MAG 9.

A number of the members wanted a drawing of the Comete HUMASON. (1961c). This was discovered on Sept 1 1962 when it was 14th MAG. By Dec, 1962, it will be at its perihilion of 200 Million Miles and at the same time will be to far south. Since this Comete was discovered so early, a careful record of its shape and Mag, could be very valuable. In October it showed some unusual activity (SKY AND TEL) Dec 1961p329. At the present time this is a ninth MAG object in the mourning sky but by next Sept should be just visable to the naked eye. The path introduced here give the Date and MAG in parenthesis.



THE INCANDESCENT LAMPLIT HOUR

Our Book Review

Outside a dog a man's best friend is a book; inside a dog you
can't read a book anyway. - Anon

Writing a book review seems an easy enough, innocent pastime. Finding the opportunity to locate books to be reviewed may be the difficult part of the operation. There are literally thousands of books on astronomy, but this does not simplify matters, it compounds them. Very few of these books are worth the average astronomer's time. They are either too old (the books), too dull (the books), or too deep (fooled you that time). We would like to present for you books that might fit the following in some way. They should have some link with astronomy although they should not necessarily be "astronomy" books. If factual, the books should be interesting to read, not bone dry, unless they be strictly reference type, such as the "Observer's Handbook".

One of the books which everyone having any pretense at astronomy should read is Fritz Kahn's "Design of the Universe". (Crown Publishers, Inc., New York, 1954). This book is subdivided into four parts. The first part, The World of Modern Physics, contains some historical information, a discussion of relativity (which will not floor you), and the impact of Einstein's theories on our concept of the universe today. Part two, The Atom, should need no further word. Part three, The Heavens, is a description of the universe as we know it and for some of us, as we did not know it: The mass of all the planets and moons combined is less than two-thousandths that of the sun. Mercury . . . If it fell to earth it could sink into the Atlantic without grazing a continent. We do not know how many asteroids Jupiter has captured through the eons. . . The minor planets still revolving today may well be regarded as the survivors of ten thousand times as many which once filled the sky like migrating birds. The last section of the book titled simply "Earth" is a biography and anatomy of our globe, our water, and our atmosphere. Design of the Universe is a beautiful book; it is printed on a far better grade of paper than is usual; it has hundreds of magnificent illustrations, line drawings, and pictures; and the quality of writing, well, do you know anybody who wants a spare right arm?

Walter Erbach.

DID YOU KNOW?

The four bright moons of Jupiter all keep only one side faced to their mother Planet.

Palamar 200" Hale Telescope has attained 23rd MAG

The most Optimum magnifying power to use on your telescope is 40 times the Diam of Objective. The Minimum is 3 times.

The first planete discovered outside our Solar system is a satalite of a double star in Cygnus.

Grab Bag -- Wanted a good finder with its Mounting.

What do you want or what do you need? You got anything to sell or Trade?

At our next meeting June 6th we will discuss and arrange for a sky Show for the following week. Also we will have a demonstration and lecture on the refractor type telescope. We hope to have a Movie. 'Oh Yes', the above lecture on the refractor telescope will be given by your Progame chairman, Dick Hartley.

Lets all hope for better seeing ahead as the past month has been very poor from an astronomical standpoint. Keep your chin up and come to the meetings and we, who are your officers will try our best to make them interesting. As of now "Keep your Eyepiece Clean".

P. S. Programs to look for at future meetings, The Reflector Grinding lenses, Astro-Photo, Setting Circles, Culminating Your Scopes, Book reviews and Etc. Just Received the publication POPULAR ASTRONOMY, for May and June and Guess What? Pete and Jess Made It with their Comet Pictures. Thanks to Sky and telescope and to Popular Astronomy Magazines.

Your Progame Comm.