

7-62

July 18, 1962
Lincoln, Nebraska

The meeting of June was a real mover as a movie, Exterior Galaxies, quickly caught the imagination of us all. Dick Hartley, our new Program Director, started his new term with an engrossing report on refractors: their history, construction, advantages, and disadvantages. Using his 3" refractor, Mr. Hartley accompanied his talk with a demonstration. Reflectors will be the topic of July's and August's meetings.

A brief report on Harvard Announcement Cards was then given. By mailing \$5.50 to Librarian, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts, fifty cards (about a years worth) will be sent air mail. This gets new information about comets, variables, novae, and asteroids to the amateur as soon as the observatories learn about them.

The Star Party that was discussed was carried through with tremendous success. Close to fifty young students rolled in from Seward on a chartered bus and shared peeks through the scopes on the 30th. There was only one problem: it was cloudy. Later the skies cleared and the remaining members compared scopes and hunted for new objects. The Great Red Spot on Jupiter was vivid and could be seen even through a 3" refractor. Saturn revealed two cloud bands besides its ever impressive rings. Everybody agreed that we must have another one. Our hats are off to Mr. and Mrs. Hartley for the use of their "observatory" and Mrs. Schultz and her daughter for their homemade cookies.

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The July meeting was again sparked by a movie and then largely devoted to spontaneous information from almost all the members. Jesse Williams presented a mind tickler from the magazine Lamp. Read to the members by Walter Erbach, the article discussed fossilized life found in the Orgueil meteor which fell in France. Amazing as it may seem, this report provided photographs of tiny organisms imbedded in the meteor. With this evidence we can't help but wonder if we are the only unique beings in the Universe.

A financial discussion decided that the next three meetings will give members the chance to pay their yearly dues. Out of this \$5.00, \$3.00 will be sent to Sky & Telescope for a year subscription at almost half cost. For those who do not wish to subscribe, only \$2.00 will be required. Suggestions were and still are welcomed on the financing of the Newsletter.

Excited by the last Star Party, the members were ready and willing for a public showing. Montgomery Wards have already consented to do the advertising for us at Gateway Shopping Center. August 9 will be the night, and there will be films and exhibits besides the scopes. Those interested in showing something are urged to contact Jesse Williams.

The odd lights seen during the thunderstorm of the 10th was unsolved after a call to the weather bureau. But thanks to a well-charged clue by Eugene Robertson, the mystery was solved. After the probable origin had been determined from several observations, Consumers was called. Three blocks north, a power line had fallen at 11:00.

Finally Jess Williams gave the first half of a talk on reflecting telescopes. August will find him continuing this report along with one on eyepieces by Harlan Franey. It should prove to be busy and interesting.

SOLAR SEANCE

- Mercury: From our members in South Africa and Australia, we are expecting a report on the occultation which occurred on the 30th of June. The rest of the month Mercury will be swiftly fading into the morning twilight.
- Venus: Take a peek - she's still a little chubby (71% illuminated) but a beautiful sight.
- Mars: For the early birds, he rises three hours before the sun.
- Jupiter: Unforgettable with its many cloud bands, the Red Spot, and many moons, Jupiter rises 2½ hours after the sun sets.
- Saturn: This is the best time, for it aligns itself with the earth and sun on the 31st becoming 832 million miles away. Be sure to see the occultation of a star behind Saturn on the 23rd. It starts about midnight on the eve of the 22nd.
- Uranus: Forget it.
- Meteors: The Delta Aquarids last for 20 days reaching a peak on the 29th. Accompanied by a new moon on the 31st, a single observer should be able to see 20 per hour. Try just before dawn.
- Comets: While you're out watching the meteors (of course) take a look for Comet Humason which was described in the last letter.
- Moon:

New Moon	-----	July 1,	5:53 P.M.
First Quarter	-----	July 9,	5:40 P.M.
Full Moon	-----	July 17,	5:41 A.M.
Last Quarter	-----	July 23,	10:19 P.M.
New Moon	-----	July 31,	6:24 A.M.
First Quarter	-----	August 8,	9:55 A.M.

DID YOU KNOW?

- *Astronomers determine magnitudes of stars from photographs by measuring their diameters on the plate - the larger the diameter, the brighter the star.
- *All the stars in space provide the earth with only 1/15 the light of the full moon. (excluding the sun)
- *Callisto, the fourth moon from Jupiter, has such a low density that it could float in water.
- *Cassini's division in Saturn's rings is actually caused by gravitational forces from Saturn's moons.

The August meeting will be held on the 1st with the Star Party the next week. Be sure to be there and bring a friend; visitors are more than welcome. It will be at 7:30 in the Nebraska Wesleyan Physics Building. Until then, don't wash the car; we need some clear weather.

Pete Schultz, Secretary