

Prairie Astronomy Club

Lincoln, Nebraska

December 1962

Meet first Wednesday in month at Wesleyan Science Bldg. -- 7:30 p.m.

Jess Williams, President -- Jim Hoskins, Secretary -- Dick Hartley, Program

First an apology is due all members for not getting a letter last month, but I don't know who is to do the apologizing. At our December 5th meeting we had a very good program. John Amowert gave a book review on Killer Comet and Walter Erbach gave one of the best on certain cosmic relations, such as Time, Space Mass & Energy. You could do some real deep thinking along these lines: There are some words for this, COSMOGENIES, Pulsating, Exploding, Balance, and unbalance of the solar system and Universe.

Your President gave a demonstration on how to make a mounting cheap. Fork type, mostly of wood, with clock drive. Will furnish particulars.

Just received a card today from Carol Moore. He is at Boulder, Colorado. High Altitude Obser. Said, "I will be back with the Club again this fall." We will be glad to have him back with us as we need him badly.

The Sun, Moon and Planets this month

Mercury Evening Object - End of month
Venus - Morning, December 19th - $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours before Sun
Mars - In Leo - Rises about 3 hours before midnight
Jupiter - In Aquarius - S.W. Sky - Sets $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours before midnight
Saturn - In Capricornus - Sets about 2 hours after dark - S.W.
Uranus - In Leo - Rises $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours before midnight
Neptune - In or near Alpha Libre - $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours before Sun. Low in S.E.
Moon - New Moon December 26th - 1st Quarter January 3

Read Celestial Calendar. Sky and tel - A Northern Variable. R-Camelopardalis.

Did you know? Have you noticed that the Moon at this time of the year occupies the same part of the ecliptic or in the position the Sun occupies in the summer skies, and in the summer the Moon is in about the same position the Sun is now.

Our next meeting date is January 2, 1963.

From Amateur Telescope Making, Page 465, The Beginner's First Telescope. The first decision you will make probably will be to construct a 500 power telescope right off. You'd like to see the whiskers on the man in the Moon. Get this idea out of your head at once. Russell says, It is quite helpful for two people to start together on the grinding job, as two heads are better than one and it's more sociable. On page 489 he says, "A six inch mirror is almost at the Rayleigh limit if left spherical at F8." I suspect more of these six inch F8 mirrors are worsened by attempted Parabolization than are improved. Remember he is talking about a near perfect Sphere.

Your officers have been thinking!!! With astronomy as the subject and one so interesting, why don't we get the turn out at our meetings that we should? We are open for your ideas and any constructive criticism you may offer for the good of the club. Maybe something we could change and put a lot of life into this endeavor. Come up with some new ideas. We have had some big meetings and watch this next one cause it is going to be TOPS, on a UNIVERSAL SUBJECT.

Our program for the January meeting will consist of an enlightening lecture entitled "Evidence for the existence of extra terrestrial life" by Dr. Fred Schultz who is the ~~Director of Pharmacology at Dorsey Laboratories.~~ As you may guess, Dr. Schultz is the father of Pet Schultz who in the past has been one of our most active members. Dr. Schultz's talk will be illustrated with Kodakrome slides and should be one of our major high-lights for the coming year.

Also on the program we shall have our junior member, Roger Cook discuss his progress on the grinding of his new 8" mirror. I am sure those of you who have experienced the thrill of grinding and polishing a mirror and those who have wished they had attempted this task will find this report most interesting.

Again, Jess has promised us a fine motion picture to fill out the program.

The informal program will be open to group discussions of our latest telescopic observations and finds. So let all plan to attend the first meeting of the 1963 season. Invite a friend, if you wish, to the above lecture by Dr. Schultz on extra terrestrial life.

Now remember -- **Next meeting Jan. 2 -- 1963.** Same place -- Wesleyan Science Bldg. P.S. Had a good report to add to this letter, but it has been misplaced and will run it next month. It was from Werner Klammer, our good active member from Seward, Nebraska. See you JANUARY 2, 1963.