



"Greetings" From your Sec,y who is back home again and glad of it. Had a very nice winter vacation, but gee, its good to not have to live out of a suit case again.

I checked in at Union Loan and Savings yesterday to see about our meeting date, but seems I was a day or so late, as the Room was Taken so Lets have our Meeting Out at Wesleyan Uni this time, and Hope they dont Have a game that night as, parking ~~is~~ game nights is ~~the~~ bad. Meeting will be March 29th-7.30 PM. At Wesleyan Science Bldg.

\* Refreshments. \*

Earl informed me, that a good program has been arranged. Here is something I picked up in California and thought you might like it.

Lunar Craters.-- When we observe the Moon, the most obvious question that confronts us is, "How did the craters get there?" This is not a question to which any incontrovertible answer can be given.

The first solution to present itself was that they were extinct-- volcanic craters, similar to those on earth. However, there are several serious objections. First of all, lunar craters do not look like volcanic craters. A Volcanic crater consists of a high cone with a hole on top quite small in proportion. The bottom of the crater is considerably higher than the land around it. Secondly, the Volcanic craters are small compared with the lunar craters. The largest active volcano has a Diameter of one mile, while Lunar craters have Diameters of one hundred-- miles. Finally, volcanic craters have a definite arrangement: there is-- for example, the ring of fire: surrounding the Pacific ocean where Mount Hood (Oregon), Mt. Rainier (Wash), Mt. St. Elias (Alaska), Mt. Fujiyama (Japan), Mt. Rayon (Philippines), Mt. Krakaton (Indonasia) and Mauna Loa (Hawaii) form-- a rough circle on the rim of the Pacific Ocean. (Along this circle most of the worlds major earthquakes also take place) Lunar craters have no definite arrangement.

Now there are two other theories which conform quite well to the known facts.

The first is the "bubble", or more formally the "swelling-collapse" theory. This holds that as the Moon was solidifying, after a thin crust had already formed, the gases held within solution escaped through thick mud, leaving circular rims.

The second theory states that the lunar craters were formed by the impact of immense meteors on the surface of the Moon. There is one objection-- that the formation known as the "central peak"-- a sort of mountain, rising in the center of the crater-- is left unexplained. However-- similar features have been reproduced by filling shallow pans with cement dust. When spoonfuls of the same material are dropped on the pan-- the impact produces miniature craters. If the layer of dust is shallow-- a "central peak" would appear. Thus, if a meteor struck a thin layer of-- surface rock atop layers of heavier rock, a similar phenomenon would-- occur. The reason is that the central peak is really surface rock that-- is not pressed down like the area around it.

That some craters are Meteoric in origin can hardly be doubted, for-- even on earth there are some, including the famous Meteor crater in Arizona and the two mile wide Chubb crater in northern Canada.

"Sooner than we think, we may know from first hand observation".



The Resident Reports::: Spring is here and once again we can look forward to more pleasant evenings out with our telescopes. One of the sure signs of spring is the evening zodiacal light. I saw it over a month ago. It rises from the western horizon and nearly reaches the zenith. Its a beautiful sight as it reaches up and crosses the Milky-way. I think we should plan a star party soon so we may all see it.

Rick Johnson was out to my place the evening of the 18th. We did a bit of deep sky viewing with his ten inch scope. In a 1-degree area in Coma Berenices where I had found 5 Galaxies in my six inch, we found a total of 8 in the same 1 deg. field with the 10 inch.

Our club is having a photo display on the bulletin board at Bryan Hospital the last week of the Month. Any one wanting to help with it may contact Ricky Johnson or Jess Williams.

I am still waiting the arrival of my new 8 inch Dynascope. It should be here by the first of April  
Your Pres, Earl Moser.

The April meeting should be of great interest to all of members. The subject will be "The Telescope" kinds, Construction and how to Use.

The march meeting of our club will be held 7.30 PM. the 29th of March, Tues, at the Wesleyan, s old Science Bldg. The program will be a series of reports on Charles Messier, the M-objects, comets, and recent news items of interest. The meeting should prove to be very interesting.

The discussion at last months meeting was about the programs and how they should be set up. For determining the content of the program, Mr Lyberis our program chairman asked, "hat do you want the program to contain? After all its your program." Various suggestions were made, a few of which are: "lets have a quiz on the sky and Telescope Magazine." "WITH PRIZES". "COMETS" "SPECIAL INTEREST" "STARS" "Using a Telescope."

To coordinate suggestions into a program that revolves around a central topic, Mr Lyberis suggested that we set a theme for the next meeting by discussing ideas at hand. This is an excellent idea. It provides a pivot point for suggestions and reports and consequently we will have more interesting meetings. So come to the meetings and put your ideas in for next months meeting.

Form your program, then participate. You get so much more out of it when you do the research and give the report yourself.

Steve unkee.

The Sky month by month.

By Tom R Journey.

This is a good time of year to view objects; not only because of the excellent atmospheric conditions, but also because of the placement of many of the celestial objects.

Included in the list of observations for the winter months are many beautiful objects in the following constellations of Perseus and Aurus, the Bull.

Beta Persei, is a classic example of an eclipsing binary. It is also known as "Algol." consult Sky and Tel. Magazine for the minima of Algol each month.

The brighter star of the pair has a diameter of 1,250,000 miles, and a mass  $3/5$  that of the Sun. The fainter star has a diameter of 1,450,000 miles. Both stars are very close to each other; perhaps 3,000,000 miles between their centers. Their period is 2 days, 20hrs, 48 Min, and are inclined 8deg to the line of sight, the eclipse is only partial. Observations

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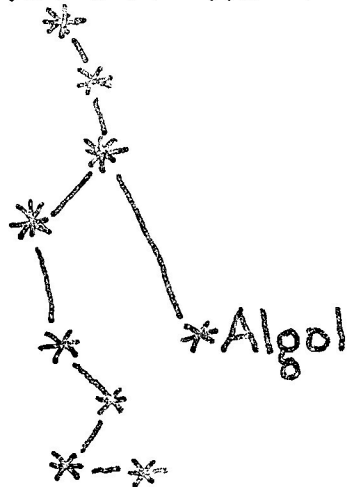
-can be made of the eclipse with the unaided eye.

Also in Perseus, is NGC 869 and NGC 884, a double star cluster. It is located beyond Eta-Persei, in the direction of Cassiopeia. This cluster is also visible to the unaided eye, and is one of the most beautiful star clusters in the sky.

Next on the list is the Pleiades group (Also known as the seven Sisters) in Taurus. The naked eye sees only six stars or so in the group, but telescopes reveal hundreds. Alcyone, the brightest star in the Pleiades is actually a triple star in small telescopes.----- Aldebaran, the brightest star in this constellation has an 11.2 MAG orange-hued companion. The companion star can be seen in a 3-inch telescope under favorable atmospheric conditions.

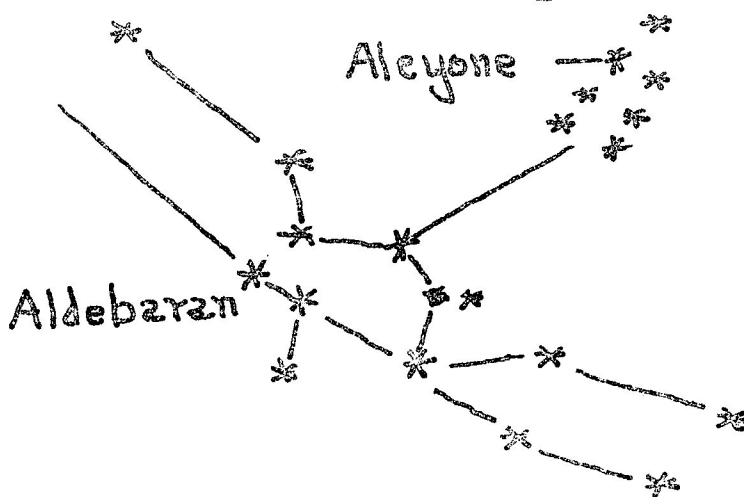
(ILLUSTRATIONS)

NGC 869 - NGC 884



Perseus

The Pleiades Group of Taurus



Taurus-