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Prairie Astronomy Club.
Lincoln Nebr May 1967.

At the last meeting your Club voted to have our regular Meeting May 30th, Tuesday Night, (Memorial Day) 7.30 P M at the Science Bldg, Nebraska Wesleyan Uni.

- * Under what type Telescope an amateur should buy-. Eliminating the problems of storage ,money, and specific program requirements ,the age old --and not to be settled here--argument of refractor vs reflectors narrows down to a matter of personal taste.
- * DID YOU KNOW THAT, Captain Cook, helped by Mason And Dixon, and some sauerkraut, was able to make observations of the 1769 transit of Venus from Tahiti in spite of the theft and Dismantling of his observing instruments by natives who used the parts as ornaments. After an exciting hunt for the chieftain ,suspected of the theft the English noticed a native openly carrying a part of it. They seized him as hostage and soon all the parts were returned .
- * An Orange or Amber filter is a great aid when observing the Planets. The faint half tones in the desert regions of Mars are difficult to detect owing to low contrast. A yellow, orange or an Amber filter will greatly enhance low Martian contrast details.
- * Eyepieces, or oculars are important. Huygens oculars should never be employed on a reflector unless its focal ratio is greater than F/10 or F/12. F/15 being still superior. On refractors, Huygens eyepieces are fine and were only intended for this type of telescope. Cheap Ramsden eyepieces are never very good. Achromatic Eyepieces usually give good definition; a good inexpensive ocular is an achromatic Kellner of special design. The three superior types of oculars are Abbe orthoscopic of the Zeiss formulae. Plessl oculars and Erfle multilens types. Erfle oculars are made only above approximately 15 mm in focal length and must be used with a barlow for high power.
- * Diffraction Masks. Recently I have Re-read the late Frank Goodwins Note on "abolishing" diffraction effects in Newtonians by laying a black mask--delineating the diagonal and the spider support shadows --in contact with the Mirror. How does this and similar methods work--as per one school of thought--or not work per another school?
The idea of abolishing diffraction" has no scientific basis since diffraction itself is a fundamental phenomenon of Optics. Quite a number of years ago the french astronomer and optical genius, M Souder carried out extended practical experiments in which he used various techniques to lessen the obvious effects of optical diffraction in a reflecting system .The four "spikes" normally observed visually or recorded photographically about bright stars can be eliminated by overlaying the main mirror with a black mask of geo-metrically curved arcs--but at the expense of lowering the light gathering power of the optical system and throwing more light into the first diffraction ring of the spurious star image. "Unk Ingalls" called these devices *** "Diffraction Spreaders. Nothing is gained By masking or special Vanes.

Your President Earl Moser will not have a letter in our news-letter because he has gone on a well earned trip. He plans to visit several -- observatories if possible. On his way home he will stop off at Wichita Friends University Mid-States convention. June 9-11.

*None need an invitation now to View the Creators works in the Heavens. The display is at its best now, with Mars, Venus, Jupiter and all the Stars Trying to outdo each other. "Go out tonight and Look" and maybe You Too will hear the Voice Say "Why are they trying to Mess up my Works? They should stick to their own Knittin, and they have plenty of Knitten to Do.
The way I Fell. Jess

* Now; Well overhead is the Northern Crown, which is rich in Starfields for the low power glass. Not a single nebula but there are Ten variables and sixteen doubles.

*Someday we, ll get an astronomer in the White House and his first move will be to get rid of Daylight saving time once and for all. John Quincy Adams, a prominent amateur, would, nt have stood still for this foolishness for one minute. It is the curse of the working class----The working amateur that is, --but untill something is done about it, we must wear our dark circles proudly.

*For "YOU" without a telescope, dont overlook the pleasure you may have with binoculars or field glasses. These easy to use and easy to carry instruments, with their broad and beautiful star-studded views of the sky, offer advantages to those al-ready owning telescopes by furnishing an added useful tool for many special purposes.

One area of sky observing in which binoculars or field glasses are particularly advantages, if not indispensable is that of seeking and tracking comets.

* A Reminder: Beta Lyra is a Variable* Lower right hand corner of the well known Lyra parallelogram below Vega. It changes madnatude over a period of thirteen days, being caused by the mutual eclipse of Two stars revolving around a common center of gravity.

* The Planets. Mercury, end of May, Visable
Venus, Beautiful evening Star, Now.
Mars, in Virgo, South by S*E- 10.PM. (RED)
Jupiter-In Cancer, Sets at About Mid-Night.
Saturn-Near Sun at Sun-Rise. To close to Sun.

* Moon-Last Qtr, May 31st. New June 8th.

* Lets have a Question Box. Write a Question or suggestion and give them to your Sec,y or To Steve Runkee. We will bring them up at the Meeting.

Now mark your calander for May 30th. 7.30 PM. Science Bldg---
Nebraska Wesleyan Uni. Bring a Friend. See You Then

Jess Williams Secy
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