

5-69

There are a couple of apologies in order. First, I want to apologize for last months newsletter coming out too late for the April 24th. Gateway show.

I am sorry that most of the burning of the mortgage and the whole sky show that followed was missed by many members. I am sure that some of you were quite surprised when you saw the news on Channel 10 and the pictures in the newspaper the following day. It seemsthat there was some mis-understanding and a lack of cooperation involved with the dead line of the newsletter. An investigation is under way and I hope to avoid this problem in the future.

The second thing that happened was that a lot of people got "left out" so to speak, at our last meeting. Carroll Moore Closed the Planetarium doors at 7:50 for a 20 minute briefing on the constellations and basic Astronomy. I am sure that you can understand his reasoning in this respect. It would have "blown" the whole show to open the doors for late comers in the middle of his program and allow the hall lights to flood the planetarium. It was entirely my fault for not being outside to welcome late comers and direct them to the lecture room. I am sorry and it won't happen again.

The star party at my place on May 9th. was a partial success. We had a good turnout for a change. There was about 10 club members and 15 girl scouts from Hickman up on the hill at 9:30. But by 10:00 the clouds came rolling in and the party broke up. We will try again next month. Lets really test our luck and have a star party in June on FRIDAY THE 13th. !

Earl Moser

PLANETS & MOON

Star show, Gateway May 27- Moonlight Sale -Open Till 11pm. !
We will have our regular meeting that same night May 27th. at 7:30. After our meeting we will go from there to Gateway. It will be light untill 9pm. so there should be no trouble.

Your Secretary has placed an order fo 10 copies of Obser-e "Comet". Please place your orders as 10 won't go very far.

The May meeting will be held on the 26th, at Nebraska Wesleyan University, in Olim Science Hall, at 7:30 P.M. We will have a discussion of some of the better NGC objects, and the plans for the convention will be discussed and finalized. The regular planetarium show will be given.

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Included in this month's newsletter are the final notice and registration blanks for our convention. I urge all club members to register whether you are able to attend or not. One would certainly think that the host club should have a large percentage of it's members registered and in attendance. We also need all the obtainable funds, and the registration fee is all that we have to offset the convention expenses. So fill out the registration blank now and send it, either to Ed Woerner, who is Chairman of the Registration Committee, or to me. You may pay now, or at the convention. In any case, it would be appreciated if you could bring the registration blanks to our meeting.

See you there,
Earl Moser

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CONVENTION**CONVENTION**CONVENTION**CONVENTION**CONVENTION**

The 1970 Midstates Convention has transformed from a not too certain groping in the general direction of providing a place to hold the convention to a well-organized, effective, and successful effort to provide the Mid-States region with an extremely good convention. An especially good job was done by the members of the Geust Speaker Committee, who managed to arrange to get Dr. Peter van de Kamp of Swarthmore College to address us. The other committees have done equally fine work, and the cooperation of the Omaha group has lightened our load considerably. However, the most credit must go to Earl Moser, who organized us, kept us working, and planned out the convention. You have worked to put on this convention. Now come and enjoy it.

Report of the Door Prize Committee

I hereby would like to acknowledge the kind donations of optical manufacturees and distributors who donated door prizes for our convention. I would like to here acknowledge their actions for all to see, and thereby thank them. Here follows a list of the donated items and the donors.

Edmund Scientific	Diffraction jewelry
Max Camera	Fifty feet of 35mm film
Polaris Port Angeles, Wash.	Two 6" by 1½" E-6 mirror blanks
	6" 7.50 8" 24.00 10" 48.00 1
	12 " 73.00 16" 260.00
Unitron	A 6x30 finder
University Optics	A 6mm Kellner eyepiece

These people have been very good to us. Let's buy our supplies from them.

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The following collumm is yours. Use it for any item

FOR SALE

Jess Williams: An 8x50 Criterion finder with right-angle eyepiece
 A six inch f/7 mirror, by Crystal optics
 An Excata 500 with telescope adapter. No lens

Roscoe Dickensen: A six-inch tube assembly (mirror, cell,etc.)

Roger Severns: A six-inch scope, complete with mount

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SHORTS

Fill out your registration blanks and bring them to the meeting. To reduce confusion, we will hold registration at our meeting. If you cannot come, you may still register at the convention

An old club member, Pete Schultz, will be coming home for the convention. As most of you know, Pete is at the 'of Texas, working in astronomy. Some things you might not know, however, are that he probably will have his PhD in astronomy when he comes, and that he is a member of the Apollo 16 advisory board. He is also a fine talker, and will give a talk on selenology at the convention. Come and hear him, and renew old friendships.

See you at the Meeting

A reason has been found for amateurs to spend thousands of man-hours yearly in the observation of grazing occultations. The generally acknowledged purpose for observing grazing occultations is for the construction of more accurate maps and tracing the moon's limb. In the past few months, however, events associated with occultations have occurred which may spark the feeble interest in grazing occultations which exists in our club. Recently, through careful and intensive analysis of occultation reports, a number of previously undetected double stars have been discovered. Some of these should be easy amateur objects, and are therefore well worth the while of amateurs to go to occultations. Observers of double stars should become more common at occultation sites as a result of these discoveries.

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THE SKY THIS MONTH

Mercury- On the 15th, RA 4h02m Dec N 18°14' Greatest western elongation is on the 4th, but is unfavorable.

Venus- On the 15th, RA 8h02m Dec N 22°27' Sets two hours after the sun.

Mars- On the 15th RA 6h37m Dec N 24°10' Too close to the horizon to observe.

Jupiter- On the 15th RA 13h39m Dec S 8°52' Very good position

Saturn- On the 15th RA 3h02m Dec N 14°58' Morning star

Uranus- On the 15th RA 12h18m Dec S 1°12M Very good position

Neptune- On the 15th Ra 15h48m Dec S 18°13' Very good position

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Planning Session

On Sunday, May 2, Earl Moser, Bob Allen of the Omaha club, Monte Cole and I went to Saint Jo to meet with Russ Maag concerning the plans for the convention. We discussed the program, filled in points of which we weren't sure, and discussed the various awards which will be given. We then had dinner, showed some of Monte's and Earl's eclipse and comet slides, and came on home.

Brian Dodson

TWENTIETH ANNUAL CONVENTION

MID-STATES REGION - ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE

(ARKANSAS-KANSAS-MISSOURI-EASTERN NEBRASKA-OKLAHOMA)

THIRD AND FINAL NOTICE

DATES

June 5, 6, and 7, 1970. Registration begins early on Friday, June 5. The convention will end at noon, Sunday, June 7.

PLACE

Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, Nebraska. The accommodations include student dormitories available for individuals and families. Six meals, from Friday evening through Sunday noon, will be included.

THEME

The major astronomical event of 1970, the solar eclipse, will be the theme. Russel Maag, 1601 Blackwell Rd., St. Joseph, Missouri, will be in charge of this segment of the program. All reports, photographs, and information concerning the eclipse should go to him.

GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Peter Van de Kamp, Sproul Observatory, Swarthmore College, most recently noted for his interpretation of deviations in the proper motion of Barnard's Star as due to a planetary system.

PROGRAM

The paper sessions and program are being handled by the Omaha Astro. Society. For information contact: Robert Allen, 2326½ So. 15th St., Omaha, Nebraska, 68108.

CONTEST

Home-made telescope competition. Valuable prizes for the best 'scope in each category. Bring your own telescope no matter how much of it is home-made or how much commercial.

FIELD TRIPS

A trip to the Lueninghoener Planetarium and Observatory in Fremont, Nebraska is planned for Friday evening.

Star parties will be held on both evenings, after the regular program, in a rural area 12 miles south of Lincoln. Transportation for people and 'scopes will be provided.

MESSIER AWARDS

Messier awards will be presented to those who have earned but not yet received them. A prominent Astronomical League personality will present the awards.

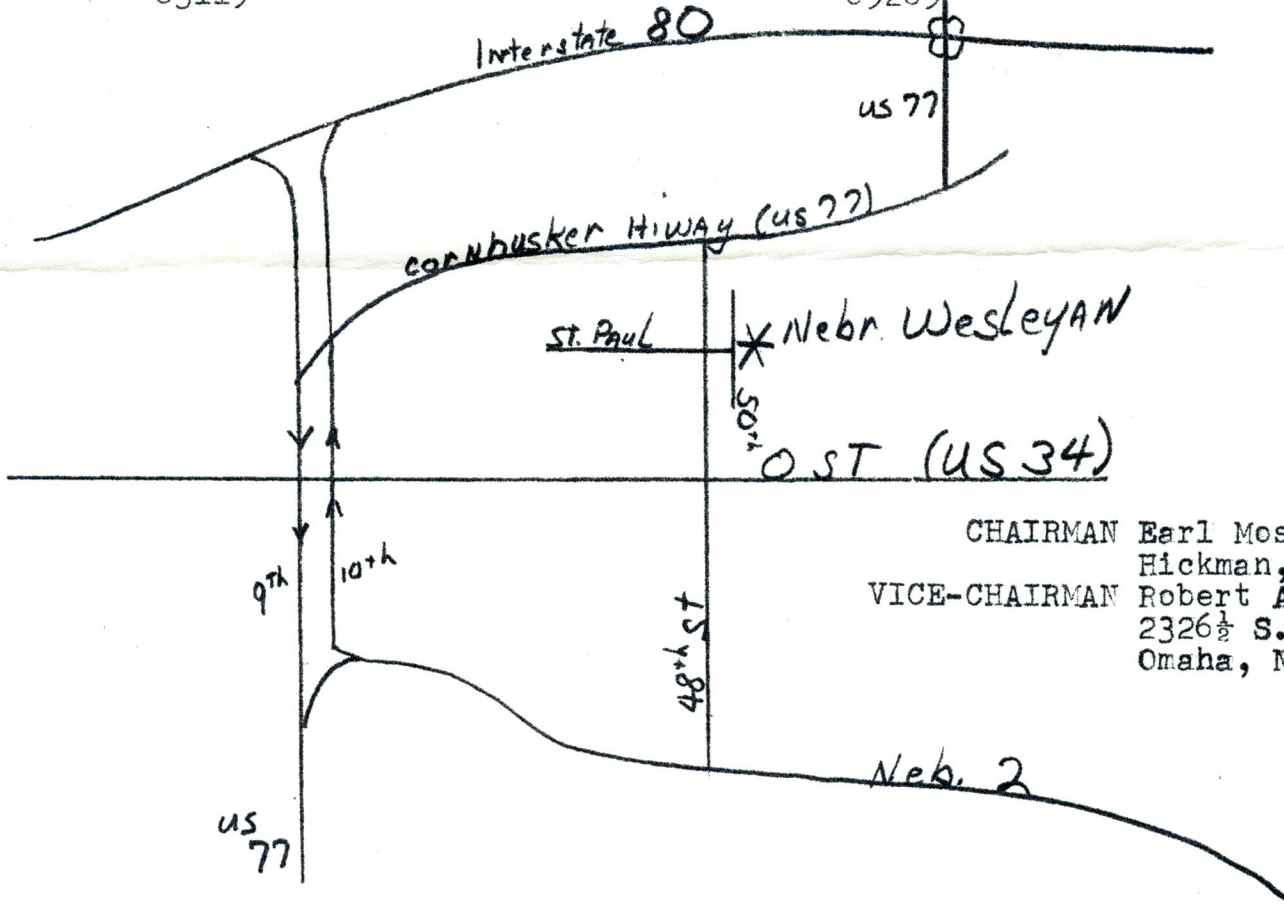
AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

A special award will be presented to the outstanding amateur of the Mid-states region. Send the name of your nominee, along with his qualifications to:

Ed Friton
508 Marshall Ave.
Webster Groves, Mo.
63119

or

Dick Olson
728 Woodlawn
Mexico, Mo.
65265



CHAIRMAN Earl Moser
Hickman, Nebr.
VICE-CHAIRMAN Robert Allen
2326 1/2 S. 15th St.
Omaha, Nebr.

Detach and mail to regional chairman

ROOMS-student dormitories, three days and two nights-\$6 or \$8 air-conditioned, linen.\$1.(optional)

MEALS-\$8

REGISTRATION FEE-\$3 for individuals, \$4 for families.

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Number of people _ .

Notice- To those who came to the last meeting and found no one at home; please be advised, from now on, someone will be stationed in the meeting room to direct late comers and inform them as to future meeting times and dates. Several persons called your Secretary to inform him that they came, waited around a while and went home. Sorry, but this won't happen again.

Jess Williams

As you all have noticed by now the newsletter is some what different this month. Monte Cole and Ed Werner have not done their usual articles. These people have been doing fine work, and we all hope that they will return the ways of old in their assistance to this periodical. However they can't be expected to do what every member of the club should be doing. The newsletter always has the same people who are willing to help. This is good in that it shows that these people care about the club. Yet everybody who really cares should, at some time do his part. Have you done yours yet?

Roger Severns

Joseph Addison, 1712

Contributed by Earl Moser.

The spacious firmament on High,
with all the blue ethereal sky,
and spangled heavens, a-shining frame,
Their great original proclaim:
The unweary'd sun, from day to day,
Does his creator's power display,
And publishes to every land
the work of an almighty hand.

Soon as the evening shades prevail,
the moon takes up the wondrous tale,
And nightly to the listening earth
repeats the story of her birth;
whilst all the stars that round her burn,
And all the planets in their turn,
Confirm the tidings as they roll,
And spread the truth from pole to pole.

What thought in solemn silence all
move round this dark terrestrial ball?
What though no real voice nor sound
amidst their radiant orbs be found?
In reasons ear they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious voice;
forever singing as they shine,
"The hand that made us is divine."

Mid-States Region
Astronomical League

Will have it's nineteenth annual Convention on June 6,7, and 8.

It will be at Central Methodist College, in Fayette, Mo. Advanced registration is desirable, however last minute registrants will be welcome.

The complete convention package (two nights lodging, five meals including Saturdays buffet banquet) are available at \$15.00 each, plus \$2.00 registration fee.

The housing will be in "Holt Hall" at the college. Linens will be furnished but bring your own blankets.

Bill Vaughan will hold an open house at the Meridian Co. in Columbia Sunday afternoon and evening.

The above was taken from a bulletin about the convention. I know that several members of the club are planning to go to this fine event. If anyone would like to know more about it I have several copies of the bulletin, also Monte Cole, who has been planning to go the last several times I asked him, could probably give you all the information available. I am sure, from what I have been told about past conventions, that anyone who goes will not be disappointed.

Roger Severns

Several members of the club have been working hard on a set of bylaws for the club. Several proposed drafts were drawn up by various members. These were altered and combined into a final draft that the Board of Directors voted to accept and make the club bylaws. Several copies of these bylaws were passed out at the last meeting. If anyone would like a copy and does not have one several extras were made.

It has been some time since anyone has submitted any ads for publication in the newsletter. This is one of the "Rights of all Members" in the club bylaws. I'm sure that some of you have good, useful items that you no longer want and would like to sell. It's a good bet that someone within the club wants that old evepiece, or that book on optics. Try advertising in your newsletter, it's free; and it pays!

Don't forget now! Our next meeting will be on May 27 at the same time and place. However it will be a short meeting (about an hour long) and as soon as it's over we will go over to Gateway for a skyshow. We should get there about 9:00 this way the sun will just be setting and we will have two hours until they close.

SEE YOU THU 27th. !!!