

12-69

The December meeting will be held on the 30th, at the Crestwood Christian Church, 8000 A Street, at 7:30 P.M. There will be an open discussion of quasi-stellar objects, and a discussion of plans for the March eclipse.

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President's Report

I recently received a letter from Bill Scurlock, president of the Kansas City Astronomy Club. Mr. Scurlock advised me of plans he has made as chairman of the nominating committee. He also seems quite upset about Ed Woerner's report in last month's newsletter. Ed had made some comments about the Kansas City Club's telescope being "wasted in the middle of a large city". Mr. Scurlock says that the observatory is not in the middle of the city and he feels that it is not wasted, because they average 150 visitors a month. Of course Ed's opinions are his own and he has a right to express them. I am sure that there are many others who have the same opinion as Ed on the location of an observatory, just as there are many with the opposite view, such as Mr. Scurlock. It seems that a lot of clubs are up against the same problems we are faced with. The question is whether to locate the observatory in a remote area, to make full use of dark skies and large aperture, but by fewer people, or to locate in a metropolitan area for a limited use of a telescope's capabilities by many people. Well, as long as everyone makes his opinion clear and respects the other's point of view we should get along together, no matter where the observatory is located.

At this time I will present the committees for the 1970 Mid States Convention as they now stand. There may be changes later.

Earl Moser

Committee on committees:

- Earl Moser
- Bob Allen
- Ed Woerner

Exhibit committee:

- Gary Hall
- Gil Machin

Nominating committee:

- Bill Scurlock
- Ed Friton

Hospitality-Registration committee:

- Rick Johnson
- Jess Williams
- Dick Hartley

Program-Proceedings committee:

- Omaha Club members

Printing-Publicity committee:
Monte Cole
Larry Stepp

Door Prize committee:
Bill Noel
Dr. Manthey
Jess Williams

Housing committee:
Dr. Moore

Guest Speaker committee:
Ed Woerner
Monte Cole

Chamber of Commerce Liason committee:
Tom Pansing
Jess Williams

Film Committee:
Roger Severns
Brian Dodson

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Comet Tago-Sato-Kosaka 1969G

DATE	R.A.	DEC.	MAG.
December 31	19 38.35	-51 54.9	2.8
January 4	20 21.72	-53 58.9	2.8
January 8	21 16.06	-52 01.1	2.8
January 12	22 17.68	-46 25.9	2.9
January 16	23 18.60	-35 55.4	2.9
January 20	00 11.85	-20 52.6	3.2
January 24	00 54.77	- 4 35.7	3.6
January 28	01 28.54	+ 9 12.9	4.2
February 1	01 55.30	+19 24.9	5.2

This is the latest I have on the comet. It looks like it will be a good one.

The 1970 Observer's Handbooks are here and may be obtained from your treasurer. Those who ordered them may get them at the next meeting.

Ricky Johnson

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The portion of Mr. Scurlock's letter which Earl referred to in his report reads as follows;

"I would like to see the seventh paragraph on the second page entitled, "Convention Planning Session" by Ed Woerner, of your last publication, Either rephrased or rewritten completely. It now appears, "The next morning following breakfast we went to the club's observatory housing a 16" F.7 reflector, a fine telescope wasted in the middle of a large city". It isn't

located in the middle of the city, nor do we feel it is wasted, at last count we were attracting 152 people per month over a 10-month period.

I will expect to see a correction in your next publication."

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In response to Bill Scurlock's comments, I wish to state again that it is my opinion that the Kansas City Astronomy Club's 16" telescope is not being used to its fullest capacity in the middle of the metropolitan area.

Among factors determining the potential of a telescope are the environmental qualities of dust, stray light, and heat from manufacturing districts, residential areas, and even automobiles. Although Swope Park is not in the center of Kansas City, it is nevertheless well within the city proper. The metropolitan area itself is as much as 100 miles across, including Kansas City, Kansas, and suburban cities larger than Beatrice. Surely it must be obvious that large quantities of dust, stray light, and heat severely limit the capability of a telescope.

Mr. Scurlock rationalizes all of this by stating that over 150 people have visited the observatory each month. However, due to the above-mentioned factors, a 6" refractor would afford all of the viewing opportunities that the 16" does.

But more importantly, the question of whether the telescope is for the public or for the club members must be answered. It is my contention that a club observatory must be for the members, and surely this site will not permit the observing programs of certain advanced members within the club to progress as rapidly as might otherwise be possible.

Ed Woerner

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The Ballad Of Apollo 11
by David Kubicek

From a launch pad at Cape Kennedy, on a July afternoon,
Three astronauts set out, for to walk upon the moon.
The rocket gave a mighty roar, and slowly made its climb,
As Columbia began, its epic voyage in time.

It was on a July day, they started their descent,
And as they touched down on the Moon, their fuel was almost spent.
It was a glorious day, that everyone could see,
When Armstrong spoke to us on Earth, from the Sea of Tranquility.

It was on a July night, he backed out on the porch,
The sun was hanging low, like a gigantic firey torch.
Now that they had made it, success was coming soon,
When Armstrong left a footprint, in the dust upon the Moon.

After a decade of research, success has come at last,
Now the field is widening, and our knowledge is growing fast.
But it all came to a climax, on a July afternoon,
When two astronauts took a walk upon the moon.