

3-70

March 31, 1970

THE PRAIRIE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

488-6465

The March meeting will be held on the 31st, at Nebraska Wesleyan University, Olin Science Hall, at 7:30 P.M. There will be a series of reports and slides concerning the recent solar eclipse, in addition to the regular planetarium show.

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President's Report

The big Eclipse of March 7, 1970, has come and gone, and I missed it. Even though I had spent months in preparation and travelled 1500 miles to the path of totality, you can't be sure of anything. The weatherman and mother nature had the final decision. It was cloudy in Valdosta, Georgia on March 7. That's the way it goes. All we can do is hope for better luck next time. It was clear Thursday and Friday, cloudy Saturday, rained Sunday, and clear Monday. I suppose these facts confirm the 50-50 chance of clear skies for Georgia for this time of year.

Just the same I don't feel that my efforts were wasted. I took my family along and we considered the trip as our annual vacation. I also had a great time meeting new arrivals at the industrial park site on Friday and spent half the night visiting with the different groups of amateur astronomers from all over the eastern half of the United States.

I hear that it was clear in Lincoln on March 7, and the club put on one of its best shows at Gateway. I want to express my thanks for everyone who took part in this eclipse show. I also want to thank those who were responsible for the publicity in the paper.

Speaking of publicity! I suppose most of you saw the picture in the Lincoln Journal of my son and me, setting up the telescope at Valdosta. It looks like I really hit the jackpot on publicity. It didn't help the club much though, since the Associated Press photographer failed to mention the club's name after I had written it down for him. Just the same, people from all over the country know that at least there is one person in Nebraska interested in astronomy.

We will have detailed reports on the eclipse at our meeting, from Mexico, Virginia, Georgia, and Lincoln. Some pictures too, I hope.

Carl Moser

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Comet Bennett

Date	Hours min	Degrees min	Magnitude
4-1	22 21	19 10	2.0
4-4	22 30	27 00	2.5
4-8	22 45	35 50	3.0
4-12	23 02	42 45	3.5
4-16	23 21	48 10	4.1
4-20	23 40	52 21	4.6
4-24	23 59	55 38	5.1
4-28	0 18	58 12	5.6

"Pesos?"



## The Sky This Month

There will be a meteor shower on the 22nd, the Lyrid meteors, but the hourly observer rate is only 15, and it occurs at full moon, so it will not be spectacular.

On the 11th, Venus passes  $2^{\circ}$  north of Saturn.

Mercury- On the 15th, it is R.A. 2h 43m, Decl.  $18^{\circ} 20'$  North. Greatest eastern elongation occurs the night of the 17th, and should be favorable. Mercury will be visible low in the west at sunset.

Venus- On the 15th, it is R.A. 2h 47m, Decl.  $15^{\circ} 01'$  North. At magnitude -3.3, it is visible low in the west at sunset.

Mars- On the 15th, it is R.A. 3h 40m, Decl.  $20^{\circ} 10'$  North. Mars is visible in the western sky at sunset.

Jupiter- On the 15th, it is R.A. 14h 01m, Decl.  $10^{\circ} 45'$  South. Jupiter rises shortly after sunset, and is at magnitude -2.0. It is at opposition on the 21st.

Saturn- On the 15th, it is R.A. 2h 32m, Decl.  $12^{\circ} 44'$  North. Saturn is visible low in the west at sunset.

Uranus- On the 15th, it is R.A. 12h 23m, Decl.  $1^{\circ} 41'$  South.

Neptune- On the 15th, it is R.A. 15h 55m, Decl.  $18^{\circ} 33'$  South.

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Club members are invited to submit original articles or poems, news notes, or advertisements to The Prairie Astronomer, which is printed solely for the benefit of club members. Constructive criticism of the newsletter is also welcomed. Thanks.

Larry Stepp