

9-70

PAC

Sept. 29, 1970

THE PRAIRIE ASTRONOMER

488-1250

The September meeting will be held in Olin Hall of Science, NWU, at 7:30. A planetarium show will be held, and elections will be held. A program will also be provided, and the usual "gab fest" will follow.

* * * * *

The President's Report

It is my hope that we will be able to elect a group of officers that will promote a well organized set of programs for the coming year.

At this time I would like to use this report to select one nominee for each office and offer my reasons for wanting them elected.

Dr. Robert Manthey, a leading optometrist in Lincoln, with a professional knowledge of lenses is my choice for Vice-President. His talents will be useful to the club as a whole. And he always brings popcorn to the meetings!

Jess Williams is my choice for the office of Secretary. I am sure that everyone considers Jess as "Mr. Astronomy" of Lincoln. Brian Dodson, who has already proven himself as guardian of the club dollar, is my choice for Treasurer. Brian avoided a tentative raise in club dues by purchasing a mimeograph, saving the club much of the cost of printing the newsletter.

Richard Schellhouse, planetarium director at the U. of Nebr., is my choice for the office of program chairman. Since Mr. Schellhouse is new in our club, I asked Professor Carroll Moore to act as assistant program chairman. With these two men heading up the programs, in the coming year we should have some of the best programs this club has seen.

Harlan Franey, one of the first club members, is my choice for recording Secretary. His sincere interest in astronomy has proven faithful throughout the years of our Club's history. Hopefully, Mr. Franey's name will be mentioned when the final call for nominations is made at the next meeting.

Lawrence Pilgram, a science teacher cum dental student, who is also a new member, has shown a keen interest in amateur astronomy in the short time he has been in the club. His enthusiasm will be reflected in the fine work he will do on the newsletter, along with an assistant which I will appoint at a later date.

As for President, well I am still here. The eight years that I have been in the club have been the most rewarding ones of my life. I have thouroughly enjoyed every bit of the experiances that I have had in relation to astronomy. I have met many wonderful people, and I don't regret a bit of it. I have found my pleasure, and am doing my "thing".

Earl Moe

* * * * *

For the benifit of the new members who don't know who the nominees are, and for the offices, and for the older members who are not acquainted with the newer nominees, I thought that this resume would be useful.

Donn Baker- Joined our club two months ago. He is a Wesleyan student, majoring in English.

Monte Cole- Has been with the club for 5 or 6 years. Has held the offices of Publications Chairman, in '67, Vice President in '68, and presently holds the office of Program Chairman. He is a University student, with an undetermined major.

Brian Dodson- Has been with the club over a year. Was first appointed Librarian, and then took over the offices of Publications Chairman and Treasurer as those offices were vacated, which he now holds. He is a University student, majoring in Chem-Physics.

Harlan Franey-Has been with the club almost since it's inception. He is a very active member, and gives firm support to all endeavors.

Steve Haack- Has been with the club for 2 or 3 years. He has not been too active in recent times, but is being seen more and more. He is a University student.

Dr. Robert Manthey- He has been with the club for the best part of three years. He is an optometrist, and has been very active in club activities.

Also, he does bring the popcorn!

Carroll Moore- A professor in the physics department at wesleyan, Prof. Moore has been instrumental in providing the club with a place for meetings. In 1968 he held the office of Program Chairman.

Earl Moser- The keystone of our club, Earl has, as he does now, held the Presidency for at least five years. (as far as my records go back.) At some earlier time he held the office of Program Chairman. He is a mechanic in Hickman.

Lawrence Pilgram- Has been with the club for several months. He is now a dental student, but before this he was a chemistry teacher. He is active in club activities.

Richard Schellhouse- Has been with the club for several months. He is planetarium director for the University, and has offered the services of his position.

Roger Severns- Roger has been in the club for two years. He is presently Recording Secretary, and is fairly active in club activities. He is a student at Wesleyan, majoring in accounting.

Larry Stepp- Has been with the club for several years. He now holds the office of Program Chairman, but relinquished the duties because of lack of time. He is a University student, majoring in physics.

Jesse Williams- Needs very little introduction. He is one of the charter members of the club. For at least the last five years, he has been secretary of the club, and at some earlier date he was president. He is a retired businessman, and is very active in the club.

Ed Woerner- Has been with the club for several years. He held the office of Assistant Program Chairman in 1965, and now holds the office of Vice President. He is a University student, majoring in Electrical Engineering.

These are the individuals who are nominees for offices this year. If there is inaccurate or insufficient information I apologize, as I was working from old newsletters. Come to the next meeting and vote!!

* * * * *

For Sale

Roger Severns- RY*6 Criterion with eyepieces Very good condition. About 115 dollars.

Brian Dodson- WANTED a tube suitable for a 6" telescope. 45" or more. Cheap.

A DEED

As of this day, th Prairie Astronomy Club of Lincoln, Nebr., does hereby deed to the reader without any reservation the following.

"One Billion Acres"

To you a billion acres and not a field to fence, You pay no taxes on them and they bear you no expense.

Many millions share them but still your title's good, No man can take them from you, but all can use that would.

They bring you greatest profit when their wonders you can share, They need no cultivation and you can't improve their care.

All they ask is contemplation profound and reverent, For those starry billion acres are in the Firmament.

"Unknown"

Contributed by Jess Williams.

1970 Club Picnic

The 1970 club picnic is over, and it was a good one. In the afternoon, entertainment was provided by several club members. Three members brought their sailboats, and the Mantheys brought a trampoline, which was used by many of the younger picniceers.

By the time we started eating, 40 or 50 people were there, among them Bob Allen of the Omaha Club, along with some other members, and Russ Maag and David Carringer, from Saint Jo. During the dinner, Earl rose and announced some awards, but made one major omission. He neglected, through no fault of his own, to announce that Russ Maag was the recipient of this year's National Amateur of the Year award, and the Lincoln Club apologizes for this oversight. Congratulations, Russ!

After the picnic, the fun and games went on until it began to get dark, whereupon the games were abandoned in favor of the telescopes. At first, only Jupiter and Venus could be observed, but later the observing got into full swing. At first the usual deep-sky objects were observed, and new points about old objects were brought out by the visitors. Later Russ gave Rick Johnson and the editor some pointers on variable star observing, which is not as hard as many people think. After the majority of the people had left, the observers were cut to Earl, Rick, Russ, Bob, and the editor. A very useful binocular observing session was held, and the editor got the thrill of the night. He was able to trace out the North American Nebula in its entirety. After this, the primary activity consisted of "shooting the bull" until past one o'clock, when we all packed up to go home. Another successful club picnic was under our belts, and we only hoped for another successful club picnic next year.

Farthest Visitor- Brian Kantor, San Diego, California.

Biggest Telescope- Lincoln's 12½" f/6. Omaha came in 2nd with a 12½" f/4.3.

Biggest Eaters- A toss-up between six or seven individuals.

Best Trampolineer- Tony Manthey

Best People to see- Everyone.

Come again next year!

Astronomical Events and Photographs

The Month of October this year is full of good photographic objects and subjects for observation. First, we have a new comet, Comet Abe 1970g. It was first observed by the editor and Earl Moser on the 29th of August, and it looked like it might develop into something worth looking at. It moves very rapidly, and is now in Hercules. Hurry up and look at this one, for it is fast being lost in the solar glare. Positions are listed elsewhere in the newsletter.

On Oct. 21, and one day either side, the Orionid meteor shower will be visible. This is a fair shower, with an hourly rate approaching 25. It is suggested that this shower be looked at early in the evening, as the moon rises at about 11:00 local time. As far as pictures go, many conjunctions are visible this month. On the third, there is a Jupiter-Venus-Moon conjunction. On the 16th, Saturn is 8°S of the Moon, and on the 27th, Mars is 4°N of the crescent moon. One day, six and one half hours past new moon, on the 31st, Venus is 1°S of a very thin crescent moon. This should be a good picture for long lenses and short-focus scopes. Along with all of these special events, the usual stunning objects are still out there, waiting to be looked at. Why don't we oblige them?

Brian Dodson

The Planets this Month

Mercury- too close to the sun to observe.
Venus * Very low in the western skies at sunset.
Mars. - Rises in the east two hours before the sun.
Jupiter- Too close to the sun to observe.
Saturn - Rises an hour after sunset and is visible all night.
Uranus and Neptune are both too close to the sun to observe.

Observer Handbooks

The Observers' Handbook for 1971 will be available soon. I am now taking orders for this very useful publication of the Royal Canadian Astronomical Society. The price is \$1.50 a copy. The supply is limited, and I will be ordering them late in November, so all orders must be in by then.

Brian Dodson