

October 31, 1972

Phone: 486-7651

* * T H E P R A I R I E A S T R O N O M E R * *

This month's meeting will be held, as usual, in Olin Science Hall on the Wesleyan campus at 7:30 p.m. Our program will be an exceptional one: "The Taurus Incident," the story of the Crab Nebula complete with a professional planetarium tape and nearly a hundred slides. Don't miss it! Also, we'll have a drawing for the door prize to be given to the lucky member whose number is drawn, but you must be there to win. This month's prize: a symmetrical Edmund eyepiece. Come on out and try your luck.

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The President's Report

October has been extremely busy for me so this will be a short report. I spent the first 2 weeks planning and preparing for the wedding of my daughter, Alicia. The event took place Saturday evening, October 14th at 6:00 p.m. The next week was spent planning the program for the Astrophysics Conference at Mo. Western College in St. Joe, Missouri. That program was presented Saturday morning at 10:45 to a group of professional astronomers and planetarium directors, and other amateurs from our region. Members of our own club who were present were Brian Rugg, Donn Baker, and Jack Dunn. The conference was a great success; I only wish more of our members could have attended.

This month's program will be "The Taurus Incident" in a more complete form than was shown at our April meeting. See you there.

---Earl Moser

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GATEWAY SHOW

Our public show at Gateway for October will be Thursday, Nov. 16th, weather permitting. Rain date (snow maybe?) Friday, Nov. 17. Since we go off Daylight Saving time at the end of this month, we should have some darkness for the crowds for a change. Bring your scope, overcoat, and gloves and acquaint the public with our club.

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--Election Results--

Our annual election of club officers took place last month, and here are the winners of the various offices:

President	Earl Moser
Vice Pres.	Dr. Manthey
Sec'y-Treas.	Jess Williams
Program Chm.	Brian Dodson
Publications	Phil Kelton

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Observing in November

Even though November is nearly upon us, the glittering constellation of Cygnus is still fairly high in the sky as the sun

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Even though November is nearly upon us, the glittering constellation of Cygnus is still fairly high in the sky as the sun sets. Both of this month's objects are in this region of the sky. One of them, M71 in Sagitta, is very impressive. It is classified as a globular, that is, it has a center or point of origin. But on good nights in the countryside, my 6-incher resolves the center, thus giving it the appearance of a faint open cluster. Averted vision is especially helpful for this rather small (6 min. of arc) and dim (ninth magnitude) object. Like most every object in the sky, it is easy to find using the stars as guides. First find the tiny constellation of Sagitta, the Arrow, just below Cygnus. M71 is located right between the fourth magnitude stars of gamma and delta which are only 2 degrees apart. Most telescopes have low power fields of one degree, so a simple sweeping of the area will pick up M71 easily.

While in the area, sweep the region just west of Sagitta with finder scope or binoculars. You'll probably stumble upon 7 or 8 sixth magnitude stars in the perfect shape of a coat hanger. Try it just for kicks.

This month's not-so-easy object is NGC 6826, an 8th magnitude planetary in Cygnus. Now 8th magnitude is pretty bright for a planetary, but the reason it's difficult to find is because of its extremely small size. I estimate it at 20 seconds of arc. When looking for it, I passed over it several times before realizing it wasn't a star. Try for this one, star gazers!

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Several members have still not paid their dues for this year. Just a reminder; don't let your subscription to Sky & Telescope lapse or you may miss an issue or two. Bring your reminder cards to the meeting with you.

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FOR SALE

Available for sale: 6" Newtonian reflector, tube assembly, fiber-glass tube, and Edmund mirror. If interested contact Phil Kelton, 472-3489.

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