

February 27, 1973

Phone: 489-7651

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

Our meeting this month will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Olin Hall of Science on the Nebraska Wesleyan campus. The program will center around a film entitled "The Birth and Death of a Star."

The door prize will be the fine book "All about Telescopes," and will be awarded to the member whose number is drawn, but you must be there to win.

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--The President's Report--

Our program this month will be a TV re-run! Although the term 'TV re-run' may seem to indicate a boring evening to be endured, I assure you that this is not the case. On January 29th, "The Birth and Death of a Star" was presented on educational television (channel 12). A phone call campaign was conducted to alert members to the program. However, a few (including myself) missed the program and we will have a chance to see it again. The rest of the program will be a discussion of various astronomical subjects.

I receive several newsletters from other clubs in the Mid-States Region in exchange for the Prairie Astronomer. These newsletters not only keep me informed on the activities of the Region, but also give me some ideas for programs, etc. Occasionally the news-editors of our neighbor clubs express their dismay at poor attendance and lack of interest in club activities. I can sympathize with them as we have had similar disappointments in the past. However, we have had good attendance recently and I want to thank everyone for their interest and help in the programs.

The following is the February newsletter of the Central Missouri Amateur Astronomers (C.M.A.A.). I guess we all have our ups and downs.

CENTRAL MISSOURI AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS, INC

A MEMBER OF THE ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE

Morrison Observatory, Central Methodist College

-----Fayette, Missouri 65248 -----

February, 1973 Bulletin

January Meeting: There were three members present.

It was moved and passed that the club sponsor and underwrite an opera on the life of Copernicus. A committee was formed to contact Metropolitan Opera Co. and the Julliard School of Music. All costs will be assessed pro-rata against the membership. The opinion was expressed that \$50,000 was the maximum amount the club should underwrite. A committee was formed to contact the U.S. Government to cover excess expenses.

It was moved and seconded that the club buy a 250 inch telescope. The motion passed unanimously. Discussion revealed this telescope could not be used with the present 12 inch Clark as the dome is only 240 inches wide. A committee was appointed to investigate modifying the mount for the 12 inch Brown to accommodate the new instrument. It was decided to finance the cost of the

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A motion to underwrite an Apollo mission was defeated after one member pointed out that if it's too costly for the U.S. Government, it's probably more than CMAA wants to undertake.

February Meeting: 8:00 pm February 17 at Morrison Observatory.

Come join us in selecting more worthwhile projects.

Dick Olson
728 Woodlawn
Mexico, Missouri 65265

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NEWS NOTES

The club currently has 52 members on its roster, and our treasury has approximately \$315 in it. Don't forget, the door prize this month will be the book "All About Telescopes". We hope to see you at the meeting!

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GATEWAY SHOW

There will be a Gateway Show on March 8th, weather permitting. The moon will be at first quarter, and Saturn will be high overhead. Let's have a good turnout.

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OBSERVING REPORT

Brian Rugg, our Observing Chairman, will enlighten us this month on two topics: (1) the New Moon will be easier to see this month, as it will be 24 hours old, and (2) the Spring skies offer an excellent opportunity to observe the galaxies in Ursa Major.

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