

May 22, 1973

Phone: 435-6649

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

Our next meeting will be held in Olin Hall of Science on the Nebraska Wesleyan campus at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 29. Our program will feature a new movie entitled "OUR SUN". This is a color film and covers the sun, flares, sunspots, and the sun's effect on our planet and lives. This should be a very interesting film, so don't miss it.

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--The President's Report--

I really goofed on the date for our club's annual family picnic and star party. I had used the 1972 graphic time table and August 11 is not the ideal time for this year. The new date for the picnic and star party is August 25.

The following is a report on the guest speaker for the 1973 NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE AND THE ASSOCIATION OF LUNAR AND PLANETARY OBSERVERS. The item was taken from "Stella," the newsletter of the Omaha club:

INTRODUCING OUR MAIN GUEST SPEAKER - Dr. Karel Hujer

This article is intended to acquaint our members and our other readers of "Stella" with our main guest speaker at the upcoming convention in August. Dr. Karel Hujer is Guerry professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and is a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. In addition, Dr. Hujer is director of the Clarence T. Jones Observatory; a teaching and public observatory owned and operated by the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and the Barnard Astronomical Society.

Dr. Hujer was born in the portion of Czechoslovakia known as Bohemia and received his D.Sc. degree from Prague University. He studied and lived for some time with the great astronomer Camille Flammarion and has personally been acquainted with such men as Sir Arthur Eddington. Among his other famous friends are Albert Einstein, Mohandas Gandhi and the great Indian poet Tagore; the list goes on and on. Dr. Hujer has lectured all over the world and is considered one of the foremost authorities on the life and work of Kepler; he has also been on several solar eclipse expeditions. Dr. Hujer is listed in "Who's Who in American Scientist" and has several times been written up in "Who's Who in America." Before joining the University of Chattanooga (now the U. of Tennessee at Chattanooga) Dr. Hujer was a staff member of the Yerkes Observatory and a professor of physics and astronomy at Ohio Wesleyan University; at Yerkes he worked with the famous American astronomer Edwin Frost. Dr. Hujer will be returning from a speaking engagement in Europe to speak to our convention.

I consider it a great privilege and honor to have studied astronomy under Dr. Hujer and to honor him as my dearest friend. I believe you will find him one of the most engaging men you will ever meet.
Jerry M. Sherlin

---Earl Moser

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* * Gateway Show * *

Our next regularly scheduled Gateway Show will be held on the

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* * Gateway Show * *

Our next regularly scheduled Gateway Show will be held on the Mall at Gateway on the evening of June 7th, weather permitting. Future shows are scheduled on July 7, August 9, September 6, October 4, and November 8.

* * Believe It or Not * *

Donn Baker sends us a word about a newspaper article from the Chicago Daily News as reported to the Lincoln Journal-Star about six weeks ago. According to the article, Duncan Lunan, a British astronomer, reports a message sent to earth from a lunar satellite in orbit since 11,000 B.C. Supposedly dormant until the 1920's, the satellite was presumably activated by radio waves, with the signal coming from near epsilon Bootes. Donn will have the article for perusal at the next meeting, and also the May issue of "Popular Science" containing the article Eying the Stars from Space.

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--Observing Report--

In late May and early June there will be a beautiful conjunction of the planets Mercury, Venus, and Saturn. One can imagine the spectacle: white Venus, yellow Saturn, and red Mercury sliding into the orange-yellow glow of an hour-old twilight. The three will be closest on the evening of the 30th when they will be in a line some three degrees long (imagine that in binoculars). Two days later a 46-hour crescent moon will be on the scene to further enhance the event. More details can be found in the June issue of Sky and Tel.

---Brian Rugg

* * Comet Notes * *

Comet KOHOUTEK - 1973 F

April 5th - hr 8.07 - X 6.30 M15
22- - 8.05 - X 7.27 M14.5

Brian Marsden.

Comet SANDAGE - 1972 ah

April 4th - hr 19-17 - X 52.30 M14.06
7th - 19-19 - X 53.06 M13.07

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