

## \*\*\*\* THE PRAIRIE ASTRONOMER \*\*\*\*

Our regular monthly meeting will be held as usual at 7:30 p.m. at the Olin Hall of Science on the Nebraska Wesleyan campus. At the present time the program for this month is pending. There will of course, be a drawing for a door prize and you must be present to win.

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## --The President's Report--

The Astronomical League 1973 National Convention, held in Omaha Aug. 1-5, was a complete success. All the sessions were interesting and enjoyable. The only disappointment, as far as I am concerned, was the sparse attendance by the Lincoln Club. After talking to several of our members, it seems that a rash of conflicting interests and other activities was the main reason for the poor attendance from Lincoln.

Next years League Convention will be held in Michigan, but if you can't make it to that one maybe some of us will be able to go to the Mid-States Regional Convention in Little Rock, Ark.

The Club's annual family picnic and star party will be held on August 25, at the Wagon Train recreation area, three miles east of Hickman. Come early if you can, but if you are late, that's O.K. too. You will be welcome anytime you can make it. Bring your family, (Wife, Kids, Parents, Brothers, Sisters) all are invited. Also bring your own table service and a meat dish, salad and dessert. Coffee and iced tea, or lemonade is optional. The club will provide the pop.

The best route is to follow 56th street on south of Nebr. #2. The road between Hickman and U.S.#77 is closed. At the northeast corner of Hickman, take the road east 2 miles, then 1/2 mile south, 1 east, 3/4 north 1/2 southwest. Or just follow the blacktop all the way to the observation parking lot in the Wagon Train area.

There will be boating, swimming, and other activities in the afternoon. If you have a badminton, or yard darts, etc. bring them along. Supper will start at 6:30 or 7:00. We have invited the Omaha, Sioux City, St. Joseph, and Kansas City Astronomy Clubs, and the Hickman Wheels Camping Club to join us. Don't forget your telescope, as the star party begins at dusk.

In case of bad weather, ? ? ? ? ? We'll do it again next year. See you at the star party, or meeting and I hope, Both.

Earl Moser  
President

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## --Observing Report--

One of the questions people ask me when I tell them about Astronomy is, "How many planets have you seen?" I'll stop and reply, "Oh, I've seen six, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus." The next question is, "What about the other two?" I'll then say, "Well, Pluto is too faint for my telescope and Neptune..., well Neptune I just never got around to looking at."

After something like that, I feel kind of stupid since Neptune is one of the planets in our solar system and it's only 8th magnitude, easy in any telescope. Well, in late June I decided to find it. It was in Scorpio which was well placed in the evening sky (and still is). I got out the January issue of Sky and Tel which gives it's position very accurately in relation to other nearby stars. After some 15 minutes of searching with binoculars. I found an object of medium brightness right where Sky and Tel

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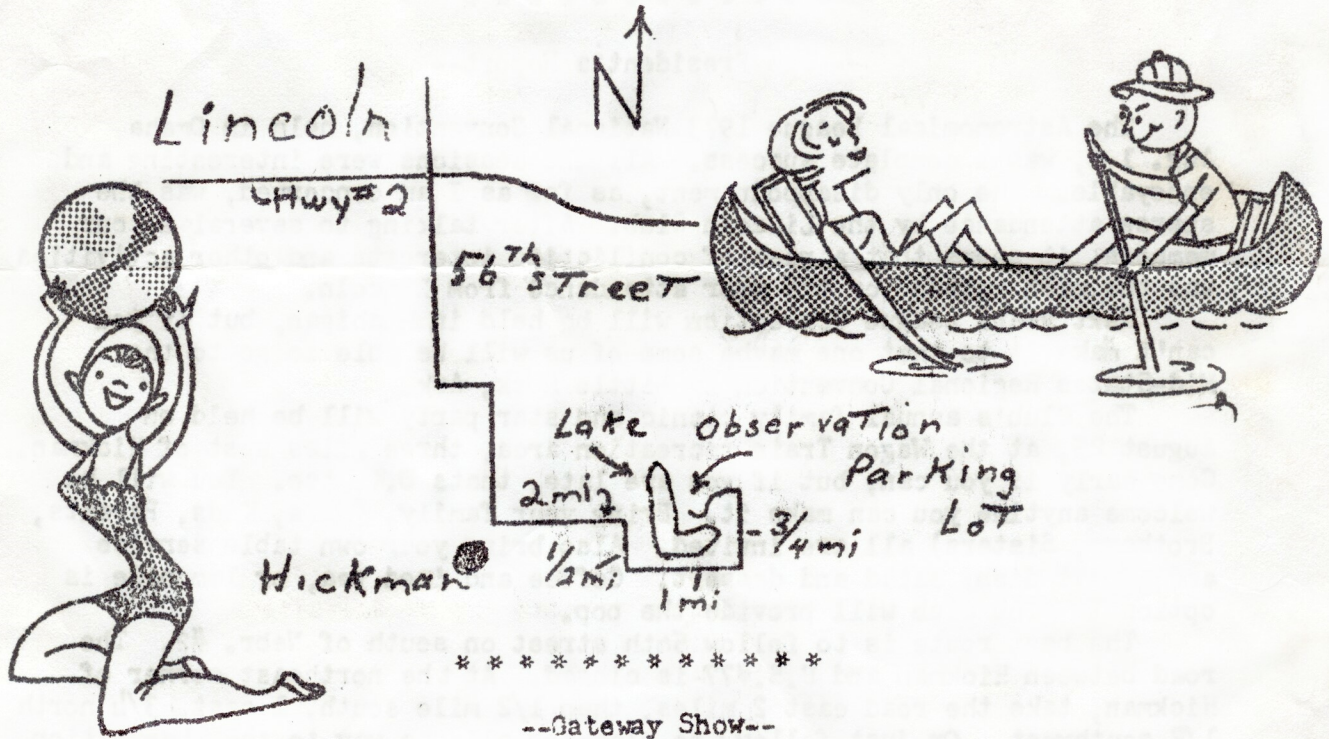
I have one deep sky object this month. It is NGC 6712 (Herschel L7 in Norton's). I estimate this object to be of about ninth magnitude, and about 5 minutes in diameter. Look some three degrees south of MI1 in Scutum, right in the middle of the Milky Way. NGC 6712 reminds me of M76, that small square like object in Perseus.

Brian Rugg

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--Club Picnic--

The details are in the Presidents report. Here is a rough map of the road to Wagon Train.



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--Gateway Show--

This month, September, the Gateway show will be on Thursday Sept. 6. In case of bad weather Thursday, we will try again on the following day, Friday, Sept. 7.

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--Notice--

Spitz Jr. Planetarium (parlor planetarium) available free to someone who wants it. Particularly for small children. Clark Fuller, 2811 "S" St. Phone 477-3034.

