

11-73

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

This month our meeting will be held as usual at 7:30 p.m. in the Olin Hall of Science on the Nebraska Wesleyan campus. Larry Stepp will present this month's program. There will also be a drawing for a door prize, so be there as you must be present to win.

-- THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT --

Brian Rugg and Lee Thomas arrived at my place on Nov. 10 at 5:00 a.m. for a look at the comet and the transit of Mercury. A search of the area in Virgo failed to reveal the elusive comet. Although the skies were clear, the full moon made the search more difficult.

After a cup of coffee, it was time to get set up for the Mercury transit. The three of us went up to the old observing site on the hill near my place. We had a good view of the south-east horizon, some 2 or 3 miles away. The edge of the sun appeared at the horizon at 7:08 a.m., but as more and more of the sun's disc rose it became evident that no transit of Mercury would be seen, as the turbulence in the atmosphere washed out everything.

While packing the telescopes back into the cars we agreed to try again next time, even though we will have to wait to the year 2003 for our next try.

Russ Maag tells me that our friend and former member, Lawrence Pilgram, is the new editor of "Nova News", a publication of the Midland Empire Astronomy Club of St. Joseph Mo. We want to wish the best of luck to Dr. Pilgram in his career in dentistry.

Earl Moser  
President

--NOTICE--

Earl Moser will be giving a program on astronomy at the Eastridge Presbyterian Church at 1135 Eastridge Dr. on Dec. 5 at 7:30 in the evening. All who are interested are welcome to attend. Earl will present the Tauris Incident slide show that he gave at one of our meetings several months ago.

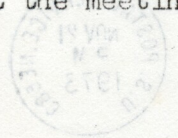
--OBSERVING REPORT--

Brian Rugg will give his report at the meeting.

--COMET KOHOUTEK NEWS--

According to the Nov. issue of Sky and Telescope comet Kohoutek will not be as bright as was originally predicted. The first reports said a maximum magnitude of -10 would be reached but that has now tamed down some to approx. -3. More discussion will be held at the meeting.

J.B.



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