ovember Interesting Month, ith Astronomical Activity

By J. HUGH PRUETT
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interesting month astro- ally is November. This past the "equation of time" has over 16 minutes, the greatest y period of the year. This that the irregular real sun er now by this amount than evenly-moving "fictitious" y which we set our clocks. ose on a standard time ian, when the clock now t is noon, the sun is 16 min- past the due-south noon In mid-February the real slow by 14 minutes; in mid- and early September the uns agree, and sun-dial times no corrections.

vember is also the month of historical Leonid meteor r of 1833, when it was said fell like snowflakes." Some white Leonids are seen d November 15 every year, aside from the "shower" ds (once in 33 years) only 20 per hour may be sighted e predawn sky. The slow- ng, reddish Andromedid meteors gave spectacular displays the last part of November in 1872 and 1885, but very few are ever seen any more.

Jupiter Hangs Low

As for planets, Jupiter is still very conspicuous low in the southwest an hour after sunset. Reddish Mars, now very distant, might with difficulty be spotted still lower and farther to the right than Jupiter.

If predawn observing is not too distasteful, look for the splendid planetary line-up somewhat south of east about an hour before sunrise. Venus is so brilliant it is instantly sighted. Considerably nearer the horizon and somewhat to the left of Venus, the elusive Mercury is quite bright. Almost in line with Mercury and Venus, but much higher and farther west, yellow Saturn is seen. Only slightly dimmer and a little west of Saturn, the bright star Regulus stands.

For the bright stars of evening, let us observe around 7 p.m. standard time (8 p.m. daylight time). Very high and about due west, Vega, the brightest star of the western half of the sky, glitters. Quite near the zenith, Deneb tops the large figure of the Northern Cross. High in the southwest, we find Altair, flanked by its two guardian stars.

Capella Twinkles

Well up in the northeast, yellow Capella twinkles brightly. Somewhat earlier, this puzzling star may appear to be flashing various colors lower in the sky. Fairly low in the heavens slightly east of south, Formalhaut in the southern fish scintillates.

Just about clearing the horizon a little north of east, the orange Aldebaran gleams through horizon haze. When higher, it is seen to be one member of a little V-shaped figure, the Hyades, which lies on its side. All but Aldebaran are faint stars. Directly above the Hyades, their half-sisters, forming the tiny cloud-like dipper of the Pleiades, glitter.

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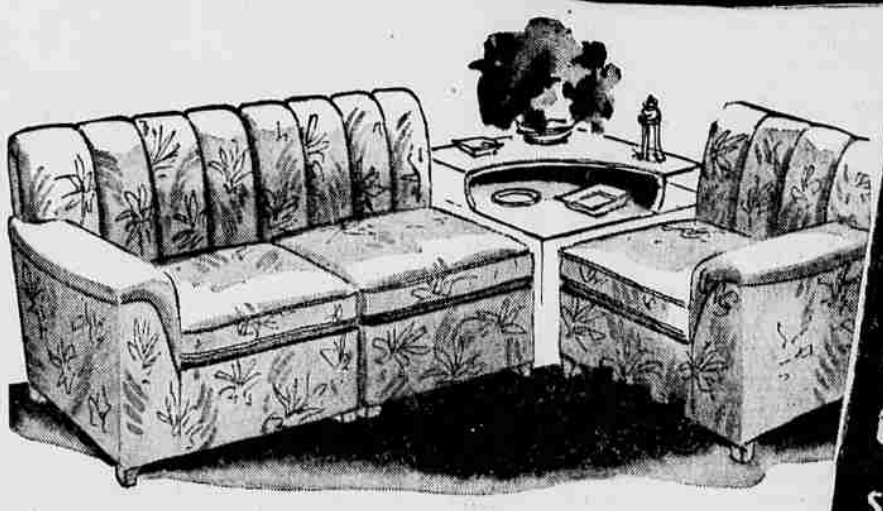

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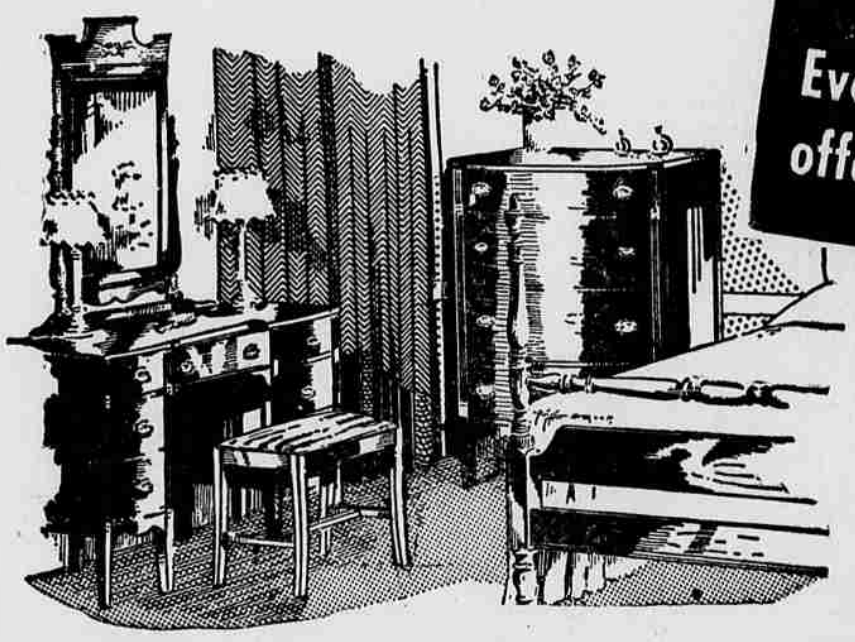

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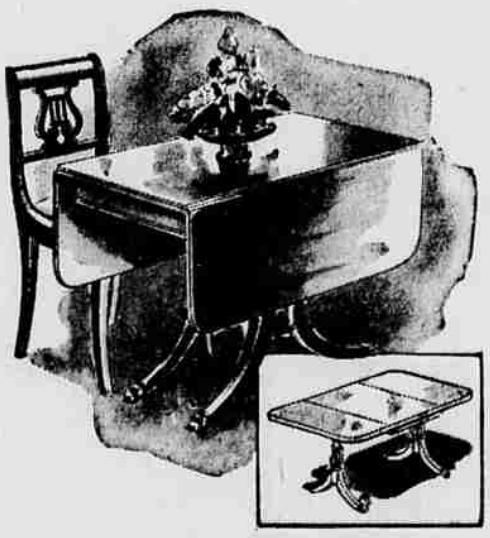

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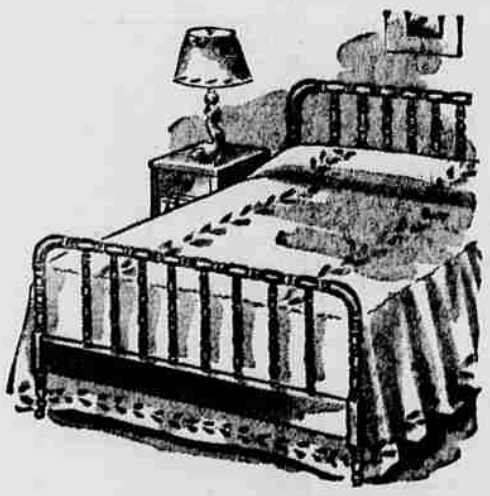

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