

Planets Not Stars, Though They Are Often Called So

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Planets are not stars although often called such, but because of the brilliance of some of them and their motions among the "fixed" stars, they are most interesting objects.

Venus, the finest of all, passed behind the sun April 13 and is now in the western twilight sky, but is still so close to the sun that it cannot be seen until near the end of the month, and then only very near the horizon.

Mercury is also in the evening twilight and quite bright low in the west northwest as soon as the sky is sufficiently darkened. More will be given on this little planet next week, at which time it will be in a better position for observation.

Mars is now in the dawn sky—but too close to the sun for observation this month. Jupiter is still in the morning sky and is brilliant in the south southeast at daybreak. Yellow Saturn is high in the south an hour after sunset, and is easily spotted as it stands very close to the bright star, blue-white Regulus. Pluto, the most distant planet, visible only in large telescopes, is located only about 15 degrees northwest of Saturn. Uranus and Neptune are also in the evening sky, but invisible without optical aid. An hour after sunset Uranus is high in the west, while Neptune is high in the southeast.

Let us observe our spring "fixed stars" around 9 p. m. The familiar Big Dipper is now only a little north of overhead and upside down. The celestial jewels in its ample bowl seem likely to be scattered. Near the northern horizon where the Dipper was dominant six months ago, the W of Cassiopeia, a little west of north now rules the scene.

In the northeast, the brilliant Vega, principal star in the heavenly harp, flashes in splendor. If horizon obstructions are not present, Deneb—of lesser brightness—can be seen near the north northeast horizon. Very high in the east southeast, orange Arcturus, the harbinger of spring, is conspicuous. The only other bright star in the eastern half of the heavens is blue-white Spica, now somewhat south of southeast.

Sirius is now flashing various

colors almost on the horizon in the west southwest. Red Betelgeuse, the shoulder of Orion, is also near the skyline and practically due west. Well up in the northwest, yellow Capella is dominant.

The heavenly twins, Pollux and Castor, from left to right, stand side by side high in the west. And while looking at the west early this evening, be sure to study the crescent moon on one edge of the entire circle of the darker portion, "the old moon in the new moon's arms."

Milk Grade Hearing Set for May 13

The state agriculture department will hold a hearing here May 13 on milk grades. It will be under a 1949 law.

The main item will be to adopt standards for Grade C raw milk for pasteurizing. The department also announced it will test each producer's milk at least four times every six months, instead of three times as is now being done. This means it will make 200 tests a week.

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Pulitzer News Prizes Listed

New York, May 3 (AP)—The Nebraska Journal of Lincoln, Neb., won the Pulitzer prize for disinterested and meritorious public service "in spotlighting issues early in the 1948 presidential campaign."

The prize for the top fiction novel went to James Gould Cozzens, for his "Guard of Honor."

Arthur Miller's hit play, "Death of a Salesman," won the drama award.

For a distinguished example of local newspaper reporting, the trustees of Columbia university, who annually make the awards, cited Malcolm Johnson of the New York Sun for a series of 24 articles about crime on New York's waterfront.

A New York Times Washington staff member, C. P. Trussell, received the award for "consistent excellence" in covering the national scene from Washington, D.C.

A series of 12 articles on India's first year of independence won a prize for Price P. Day of the Baltimore Sun for a distinguished example of reporting on international affairs.

The trustees cited two news-

paper men for distinguished editorial writing during the year, basing their award on clearness, style, sound reasoning and the influence on public opinion of their work. They were John H. Crider of the Boston Herald, and Herbert Elliston of the Washington, D.C., Post.

Middle Grove Fire District Rejected

County Assessor R. Tad Shelton has returned to the county clerk sets of petitions for creation of Middle Grove rural fire protection district with the notation that there is an insufficient number of signatures of land owners on the petition to proceed with the organization.

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The law requires that the signatures equal at least 25 per cent of the land owners within the proposed district. This will necessitate circulation of new petitions to complete the required number. The current tax roll shows 1572 owners in the land described on the petitions and but 291 signers shown to be taxpayers on that roll in the proposed district.

However, petitions for annexation of a section of territory to Four Corners Rural Fire protection district were returned with the notation that they have a sufficient number of signers. There are 43 property owners. The outstanding example of

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Inspecting the Detroit Dam Site—Three key figures in construction of the Detroit dam on the North Santiam river are (left to right): T. M. Price, expert on aggregates; Lt. Col. J. W. Miles, resident engineer of Corps of Engineers; and Russell Hoffman, superintendent of the job for Consolidated Builders. They are shown overlooking the lowering of coffer dams at the construction site.

Caravan Trip to Damsites Planned

Plans for a caravan trip to all damsites in the Willamette valley project were laid Monday at a meeting of the Willamette basin commission.

The dates will be June 11 and 12. Five cars will be from the army engineers' offices in Portland. All county courts will be invited, also representatives of cities and various agencies.

The caravan will start from the State house at 7:30 the morning of June 11. Late in the day the cars will reach Eugene and the night will be spent there.

Col. O. E. Walsh, district army engineer, met with the commission Monday. The meeting was at the Chamber of Commerce.

One theory as to why engagement and wedding rings are worn on the third finger of the left hand is that the Egyptians believed a vein ran from that finger directly to the heart.

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