

# Very Keen Eyesight Needed To Glimpse Planet Uranus

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Answers to questions recently received from several readers will likely be of interest to others.

1. "Can the distant planet Uranus be seen with the naked eye?"

When nearest the earth, Uranus' brightness is rated as 5.74 magnitude. Magnitude 6 is generally given as the dimmest visible without optical aid. (The higher the number, the dimmer the light.) So on a clear, moonless night, far away from artificial illumination, an observer with excellent eyesight can barely glimpse this remote planet.

2. "Is Venus now near inferior conjunction or superior conjunction?"

Venus moves on an orbit that is nearer the sun than is the earth's orbit. It is lost in the sun's rays for some time when passing almost between us and the sun (inferior conjunction), and when on the far side of the sun from us (superior conjunction.) Venus was at superior conjunction last Friday, so will be too near the sun for evening observation for some time.

3. "You recently wrote about

digging a hole entirely through the earth, getting all the air out of it and dropping a man into the hole. How could you get all the air out of it?"

I don't know. I do know the experiment would not work if the air were left in the hole for it would be extremely dense at the earth's center. The same correspondent asks if the man would not stop when he reached the earth's center even if I had pumped all the air out of the 8000-mile hole. No, he would oscillate back and forth from one side of the earth to the other. A freely-swinging pendulum does not stop when it reaches the lowest part of its swing. And an auto allowed to coast down a hill into a valley will not stop in the valley but will run a considerable distance up a hill on the other side. If there were no friction of air, bearings or track, the momentum gained in the downhill run would carry it up just as far on the other side.

4. "What makes the sun and moon shine and why doesn't the sun go through phases (new sun, first quarter, full sun, etc.) like the moon?"

The sun shines because its surface is so extremely hot, 50 times hotter than the boiling point of water. The moon, earth and planets are relatively cold bodies and shine just because the sun's light illuminates them.

Half of the earth, the moon, or any planet (the side turned toward the sun) is illustrated. Phases of the moon are due to the fact that we do not see all the lighted half excepting at full moon. The earth would show similar phases to a moon inhabitant. Any half of the sun in view is glowing. So we always have "full sun."

## Religious Art Exhibit Dated

MT. ANGEL — A religious art exhibit at Mt. Angel Seminary will be open to the public from Saturday until Monday, Feb. 6, 7, and 8. The exhibition will be open to the public from noon until six o'clock each of the three days. A series of illustrated lectures will start at two o'clock each day throughout the exhibition. The exhibition will consist of many fine examples of traditional and unusual chalices, chasubles, and crucifixes.

On exhibition will be more than 40 chalices from various countries, including 10 exceptional sacred vessels owned by priests in Portland. There also will be a collection of photographs of chalices and monstrances by Burch-Korrod of Zurich and Braun of Utrecht.

Twenty vestments of exquisite design from France, Germany, England and America will appear at the exhibition which likewise will show silk and gold yardage material woven by the Goten Guild of Kyoto, Japan. Modern and Realistic crucifixes, including some attractive modern numbers will be one of the high-lights of this art show. The 30 crucifixes are fashioned in many different materials.

The lectures will consist of an explanation of the crucifix by the Very Rev. Prior Martin Polard, OSB, Rev. Francis Kennard of Portland will outline the significance and history of the chalice, and William Justema, Abbey resident artist and New York designer, will discuss the latest designs and trends in vestments.

Sunday afternoon, Feb. 8, at 2 o'clock, the Rt. Rev. Damian Jentes, OSB, Abbot of Mt. Angel Abbey, will bless the new statue of St. Joseph, just completed by Frances Rich, for the new Abbey crypt church. Frances Rich is widely recognized in this country and also in Italy as one of our truly gifted sculptors. A daughter of actress Irene Rich, her interest in sculpture began as a school girl in Santa Barbara, Calif. Later she studied under Malvina Hoffman in Paris. Alexandre Jacoff in Boston and Carl Milles at Cranbrook Academy in Michigan.

## Two Dams May Replace Mt. Sheep

BOISE, Idaho — Because of newly discovered foundation faults, two dams may be substituted for a single dam the Bureau of Reclamation proposed for Mountain Sheep on the Snake River.

Harold T. Nelson, regional Bureau of Reclamation, said Saturday they were considering changing its plans believing faults would increase the cost of a single high dam higher than expected. Original plans called for a 665-foot dam at Mountain Sheep. Nelson said the bureau now is considering a 160-foot dam at Mountain Sheep and a 490-foot dam at Pleasant Valley upstream.

Groups opposing a federal dam at Hells Canyon have favored the Mountain Sheep site. Nelson said drilling showed the cost of the Mountain Sheep dam, because of the faults, would be more than 300 million dollars. The previous estimate was 278 million.

## Byron Price Quits U.N. Post

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. — Byron Price, top American in the U. N. secretariat, retired Monday. The former executive news editor of The Associated Press left his \$22,000-a-year post as assistant secretary general after almost seven years of service.

His two main achievements, as head of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, were: (1) supervision of the multi-million-dollar building project which produced the glittering skyscraper headquarters of the world organization, and (2) helping in the drive to rid the secretariat of suspected American Communists.

His only plans for the future, he says, are to grow tomatoes, cut grass and go fishing. Price left the AP to be U. S. director of censorship during World War II.

## Ionian Islands Have Tremors

ATHENS, Greece — The Ionian islands of Kefallinia, Zakynthos and Ithaca—where 1,000 persons were killed in devastating quakes last August have been rocked by new tremors. No more lives have been reported lost, however.

Thirty quakes on Saturday demolished some buildings and set off landslides which blocked roads. Loud rumblings before the quakes struck terror into the population. Torrential rain added to the hardship of those in stricken areas.

The earthquake last August demolished 95 per cent of the three islands' buildings, leaving about 130,000 persons homeless.

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