

Scorpion Constellation Is Visible in Southeast Sky

By FAY VAN SCHOIACK

Would you like to see a constellation whose form truly suggests the outline of the creature for which it is named? This star group, called Scorpion or Scorpio in Latin and the Scorpion in English, may be seen around 9 p.m. slightly east of due south and rather low in the sky.

To locate Scorpion, find Antares, a beautiful reddish star scintillating so vigorously that the star-gazer's attention is immediately engaged. This is the heart of the Scorpion. Equally distant on either side of the "heart" is a yellow star. To the right of Antares a line of five stars lie very nearly at right angles to the stars representing the body of the creature. Many people can see a fan in this part of the sky figure.

Line of Stars

A line of stars from Antares curving downward to the left then upward to end in a triangle outlines the remainder of the Scorpion. The sting is located in this triangle.

The red, super-giant star forming the heart of the Scorpion was given the name, Antares, which means "rival of Mars" because of its color-resemblance to this planet.

Mars now rises in the east around midnight. There will be more about the "god of war" in this column at a little later date, as many will enjoy the unusual beauty of this planetary neighbor when it becomes visible during the evening hours. It will also be interesting to compare the two celestial rubies, Mars and its "rival."

Largest Star

Antares, one of the largest know stars has a diameter of more than 390 million miles, which is about 450 times the diameter of our Old Sol. So great is its distance from our planet that light from this giant sun would be visible to earth-dwellers for almost four hundred years after the star ceased to shine!

"Why should a scorpion be given an honored place in the heavens?" someone may wonder.

This resulted from Phaeton's attempt to drive the sun chariot across the sky. Apollo, god of the sun, was the only one who could control the fiery horses which drew the blazing chariot across the heavens each day. But Phaeton, young son of Apollo, implored his father to let him drive the horses "just one time," until with great reluctance his father

Follow Tracks

"Follow the wheel tracks that mark the middle of the sky and do not drive too high or too low," cautioned his father.

The horses, missing the familiar touch on the reins, soon became uncontrollable. They left the middle path and ran toward the Bears in the north, causing them to suffer with the extreme heat. Bootes saw them approaching and though burdened with his plow, took to flight.

Sometimes they flew so high they were much too near heaven, and at other times they flew so low the oceans dried up forming great deserts. It is said the fierce heat changed the Ethiopians from white to dark-skinned people and also formed the Sahara Desert.

Angered by Heat

When the chariot careened toward the south, the great Scorpion, angered by the heat, hurled himself toward Phaeton, who became frightened and let the reins drop from his hands.

Jupiter, observing all this from Mt. Olympus, hurled a bolt of lightning toward the chariot demolishing it completely. Phaeton dropped into the river Eridanus and the Naiads buried his body.

To reward the Scorpion for trying to stop the run-away horses, Jupiter placed this con-

Klamath Falls Young People Hurt in Crash

James Burton Watrus, 19, and Jerry Ann Watrus, 18, both of Klamath Falls, were taken to Klamath hospital for treatment of cuts, bruises and abrasions Friday evening, after the car he was driving turned over on Highway 238 west of Jacksonville, according to state police.

The investigating officer said the car apparently rounded a curve too rapidly, went some distance on the highway shoulder, struck a large rock, and turned over on its top, skidding a further distance. The car was badly damaged.

The young victims were taken to the hospital by the Jacksonville chief of police.

RECORD COTTON CROP

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