

Venus Will Dominate SW Sky Until Late January

By FAY BENTLEY
"The breath of the west wind bore her.
Over the sounding sea,
Up from the delicate foam,
To wave-ringed Cyprus, her
isle.
And the Hours golden-wreath-
ed
Welcomed her jocosely."
In this quotation from one of the Homeric Hymns the ancient Greek poet is referring to Venus, whom he describes as a "Beautiful golden goddess."
According to legend, Venus, most charming of all the goddesses sprang from the foam of the sea and was carried by the wind to the Island of Cyprus. The Golden Hours welcomed her gladly and dressed her in gar-

ments celestial. She was then presented to the deities.
Every god secretly hoped to win her for his wife, but she was finally given to the great armorer, Vulcan, although he was very homely and walked with a limp.
Southwestern Sky
Dominating the southwestern sky is the brilliant namesake of the "Beautiful, golden goddess." The most beautiful planet is named in honor of the most beautiful goddess. All of the nine known planets are named after ancient deities, but only Venus has a feminine name. The other planets have been given names in honor of the gods.
Reading outward from the sun they are Mercury, god of com-

merce and the market; Venus, goddess of love and beauty; Earth; Mars, god of war; Jupiter, king of the gods; Saturn, lord of the universe; Uranus, god of the dim beginnings; Neptune, god of the sea; and Pluto, god of the underworld.
The great brilliance of Venus, third brightest of the celestial bodies, is due to the dense clouds which surround it and very effectively reflect the rays of the sun. But these same clouds have also enshrouded the "goddess of love and beauty" in mystery that telescopes have been unable to penetrate.
Revolves Around Sun
Venus makes a revolution around the sun in approximately 225 days, but the rotation period or the length of time necessary to make one turn on its axis is not definitely known. And although Venus sometimes comes nearer the earth than any of the other planets our knowledge concerning this cloud-covered world is less than the known facts about planets at greater distances.
The magnitude or brilliance of Venus as viewed by earth-dwellers depends upon its position in relation to the sun and earth. When this planet became observable during the last part of May its magnitude was -3.4. Since that date it has been gradually increasing in magnitude and will reach its greatest possible brilliance on Dec. 23, when it attains magnitude -4.4.
2½ Times As Bright
This means that on Dec. 23, the "Beautiful, golden goddess"

will be a little more than 2½ times as bright as it appeared when it first became visible in May.
After Dec. 23, Venus will diminish in brilliance and disappear from the evening sky during the weeks it will be too near the sun for observation but is due to appear as a "morning star" sometime in March.
Venus is the first star-like object to appear after sunset. Its brilliant, non-twinkling light shining steadily rather low in the southwestern sky is a glorious sight. In all the night sky only the moon is brighter.

Office Away From Office Being Supplied

Chicago — An "office away from the office" is being supplied out-of-town customers by Rolled Steel Corp.
The company has invited 25,000 manufacturers on its mailing list to set up temporary business headquarters at the new Rolled Steel plant while traveling through Chicago.
Two modern conference rooms and complete dial telephone facilities are available. A receptionist will handle all incoming calls and mail addressed to visitors.
Many customers already have taken advantage of the facilities, according to Scott F. Burton, vice president in charge of sales.

Congressional Groups Penetrated by Reds, Representative Says

Washington — The chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities said Sunday night that Communists have penetrated Congressional committee rooms and the offices of individual Congressmen.
Rep. Francis E. Walter (D-Pa.) reported "a new technique of Communist penetration of government" which he said "is exemplified by the official association of an identified member of the Communist apparatus with agencies and members of the United States Congress."
He did not name the committees or Congressmen involved. But he cited as an example of the penetration the work of a Washington economist, Wilfred Lumer.
Walter said Lumer had been identified by a witness or witnesses "under oath as a member of the Communist Party and a former member of a Communist cell in the Office of Price Administration," a World War II agency. He said Lumer had invoked the Fifth Amendment and refused to answer questions about Communist Party membership at a closed meeting of the committee last Wednesday.
Lumer promptly denied he was under Communist discipline in his Congressional work.
He said he had invoked the Fifth Amendment because he felt the committee "could not constitutionally inquire into my political beliefs or associations."
Walter said Lumer "has been actively participating in the work of a number of Congressional committees and has been serving as consultant and adviser to various individual Senators and members of Congress since" June, 1953.
Walter released a portion of Lumer's testimony in which the economist said he assisted "a member" of both the Joint House-Senate Economic committee and the House Small Business committee. The witness did not mention the name of the congressman.
Walter said his committee in the past month has uncovered "new aspects" of Communist underground operations on the basis of "connective information" supplied by Boris Morros, who worked as a counter-spy in Soviet espionage rings.

GOLDEN DAYS
Sioux Falls, S.D. — When Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Christensen observed their 50th wedding anniversary guests included Mrs. Christensen's brother and three sisters and their spouses, all of whom already had observed their wedding anniversaries. Mrs. Christensen's youngest brother and his wife were also present but didn't attract much attention. They had been married only 47 years.

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