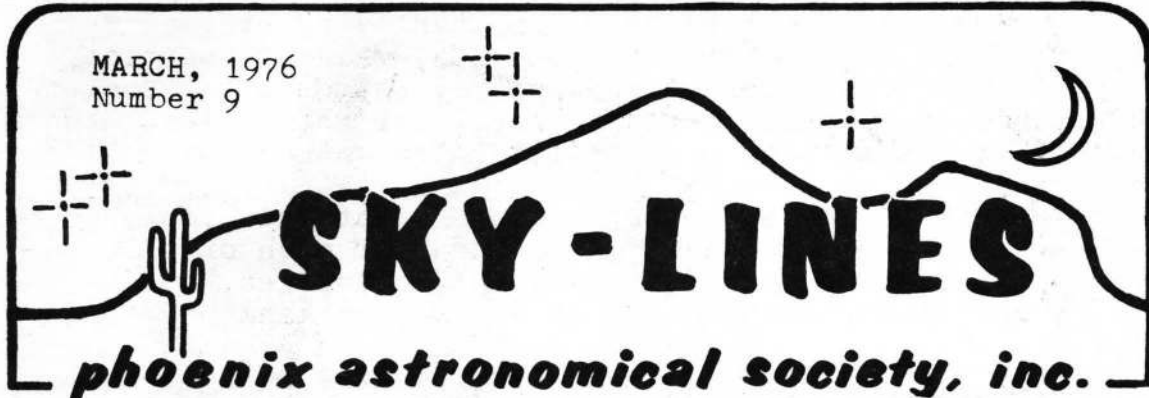


MARCH, 1976
Number 9



SKY-LINES

phoenix astronomical society, inc.

MARCH

PLANETARIUM SHOW & TOUR -- TUCSON, SATURDAY, ~~MAY~~ 27 TH

The March P.A.S. meeting will be held at the new Grace T. Flandreau Planetarium on the University of Arizona campus, in Tucson. P.A.S. members and guests making the trip to Tucson will enjoy the new planetarium show, on "Stonehenge", a guided tour of the planetarium facility, and a special tour (optional) of the Optical Sciences Center. In the evening, weather permitting, the Tucson Astronomical & Astronautical Assn. will hold a star party west of Tucson for those who wish to attend.

No special transportation has been arranged - members should plan to leave Phoenix early enough to make the 130 mile drive and have lunch prior to arriving at the planetarium. If the number attending is larger than 50, we will form two groups for the planetarium show and tours; here is the proposed schedule for the tours and show:

- 1:00 p.m. - Arrive at Planetarium, U. of Az. campus; Proceed to Mezzanine Room. Do NOT buy tickets yet!
- 1:15 p.m. - Welcome by Dr. Richard Willey, Asst. Director, in Mezzanine Room. Groups A & B formed for show and tours.
- 1:30 p.m. - Group A: Planetarium Show
Group B: Tour of Planetarium. Host: Dr. Willey
- 2:00 p.m. - Group B: Tour of Optical Sciences Center.
Host: Mr. Richard Buchroeder
- 3:00 p.m. - Group A: Tour of Planetarium. Host: Dr. Willey
Group B: Planetarium Show

Ticket prices for the Planetarium Show: Adults, \$2.00; Children (5 thru 16), \$1.00. Children under 5 will not be admitted to the Planetarium Theater.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all the members, old and new, who have participated in the activities of the Phoenix Astronomical Society this year. Some members attended all the activities; others only a few; but without each individual's support we would not have grown as we have.

My work has taken me out of town a lot this year, so several other members have had to shoulder much of the effort of planning and organizing the activities, but we have accomplished much. Some of our accomplishments this year include:

Star Parties - a very popular activity; we held more than in past years - thanks to Louis Boyd and several others.

Astrophotography Group - an active subgroup within P.A.S. holding frequent get-togethers; Bill Anderson got it rolling.

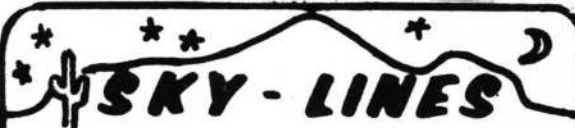
24" Telescope Optics - paid for and in our possession; contributions from a large number of members made this possible - a good start toward our Club Observatory !

Sky-Lines Newsletter - our monthly "news" brings all the members together; thanks to Gene Lucas for the huge amount of time and effort necessary to "make it happen."

The individuals I've mentioned are only a few of those who helped make our club activities possible this year. Unfortunately, though we now have approximately 140 active members in the P.A.S., attendance at the meetings has averaged only 30 to 50%. There are many things our club could do if we had better participation!! Only you as an individual can make it work.

I would like you to take a moment to think about what you have enjoyed most; what you liked least; what you think the club should do more of; what you would like to participate in. I'd like to hear from all the members - so jot down your ideas and send them to me.

- Cliff



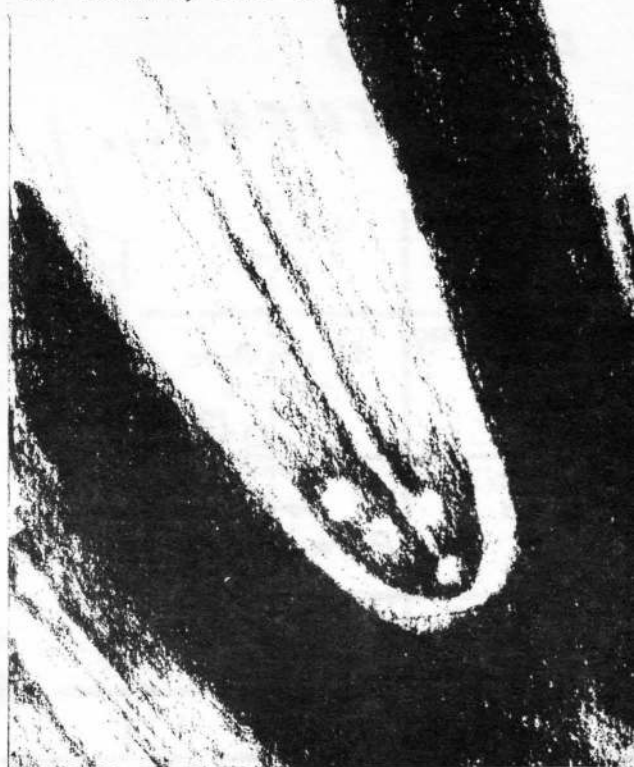
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Opinions and views expressed in SKY-LINES are strictly of the authors and not necessarily that of the Phoenix Astronomical Society, Inc. or its officers.

F. MERCALDO, 125 X

H. LINES, 200 X



OBSERVATIONS OF COMET WEST (1975n)

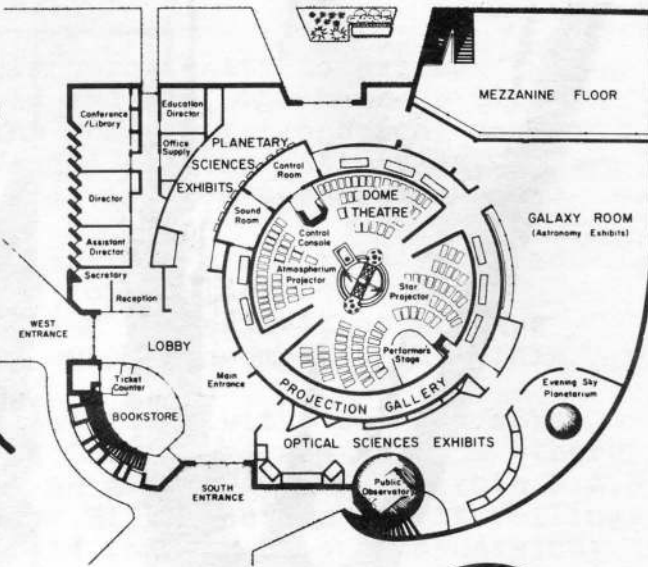
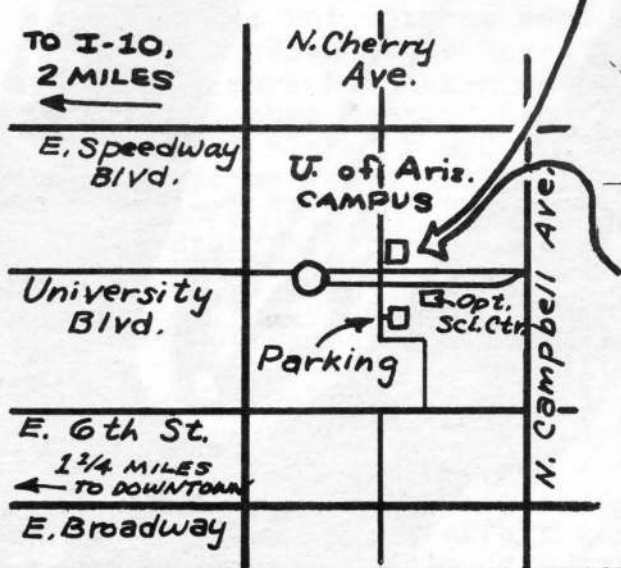
Several P.A.S. members have had success in observing and photographing Comet West since its perihelion; while others reported poor observing due to generally cloudy early morning weather in the Valley.

Thru last weekend, the comet was easily visible as a naked eye object in the east, rising about an hour before the Sun. To the naked eye, its tail extended several degrees; in binoculars, possible 10 degrees or more, depending upon sky brightness.

Richard and Helen Lines report success in photographing the Comet with their 16" reflector at Mayer, Arizona. S.I. Gail reports he has taken a series of photographs with guided camera and telephoto lenses in Phoenix; one photo was printed by the Paradise Valley Press, a local newspaper.

Observations of the head of the comet showed several unusual bright spots or condensations in addition to the star-like nucleus. The above sketches show details of the head as seen by (left) Frank Mercado, 6:00 a.m. 14 March, 125 power, 10" Newtonian, N. Phoenix; (right) Helen Lines, 5:55 a.m. 13 March, 200 power, 16" Newtonian, Mayer, Arizona.

HOW TO GET THERE...



FLANDRAU
PLANETARIUM
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

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