



OCTOBER

1985

PASTIMES

PHOENIX ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY -- FOUNDED 1948

OCTOBER MEETING OCTOBER MEETING OCTOBER MEETING OCTOBER MEETING OCTOBER

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, the 25th at Phoenix College, Room C-102 at 8:00 p.m. (see map on back of newsletter).

Dr. Linda Stryker, on staff at A.S.U., will speak to us on "Blue Stragglers" -- those mysterious blue misfit stars found in open and globular red clusters where all stars should be of the same age and temperature range.

Dr. Stryker will also have free Halley brochures published by A.S.U. for the general public, and she promises to have all the latest scoop on Halley!

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NOTES FROM OUR SECRETARY

Many newcomers joined our regular members for our September meeting at which Dr. Mark Wagner, from A.S.U., spoke on the subject of comets.

Dr. Wagner's fine slide show included photos of comets Halley (1910), West, Kohoutek, and Iras-Araki-Alcock. He also gave an overview of several other nations' Halley flybys such as Giotto, Vega 1 & 2, and Planet A/MS-T5. One notably absent participant in this international affair is the U.S. The going excuse (besides the cost) seems to be one of Halley's relative speed being prohibitive to a productive flyby.

Comets are thought to be the pristine remains of solar nebulae and thus are the key to understanding the history of our solar system.

Although the nucleus of comet Halley is a huge dirty snowball of 3 to 6 kilometers in radius, viewing this time around should be less spectacular than in 1910 because its closest approach to earth in 1986 will be five times farther away.

Dr. Wagner showed spectrum analyses of

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COMET HALLEY PUBLIC VIEWING NIGHT

On Saturday, November 16, members of our club and those of the Saguaro Astronomy Club will host a public star party to show off the moon, stars and comet Halley. It will be held at the Pinal County Fairgrounds east of Casa Grande (see map) from 5:00 p.m. to midnite.

A large crowd is expected so we'll need plenty of scopes out there. Go lite on your favorite equipment but do bring lots of extension cord and/or a drive corrector. Also, bring a sturdy stand that is tall enough for small children. More information will be available at the October meeting.

SPACE PROBE 8

For the next 5 months be sure to check out channel 8 (KAET) evenings at 7:00 p.m. KAET's nightly public affairs program, Horizon, will be featuring a wide-ranging overview of astronomy and space science in Arizona. The program, hosted by Michael Grant and Rick D'Alli will include interviews with prominent

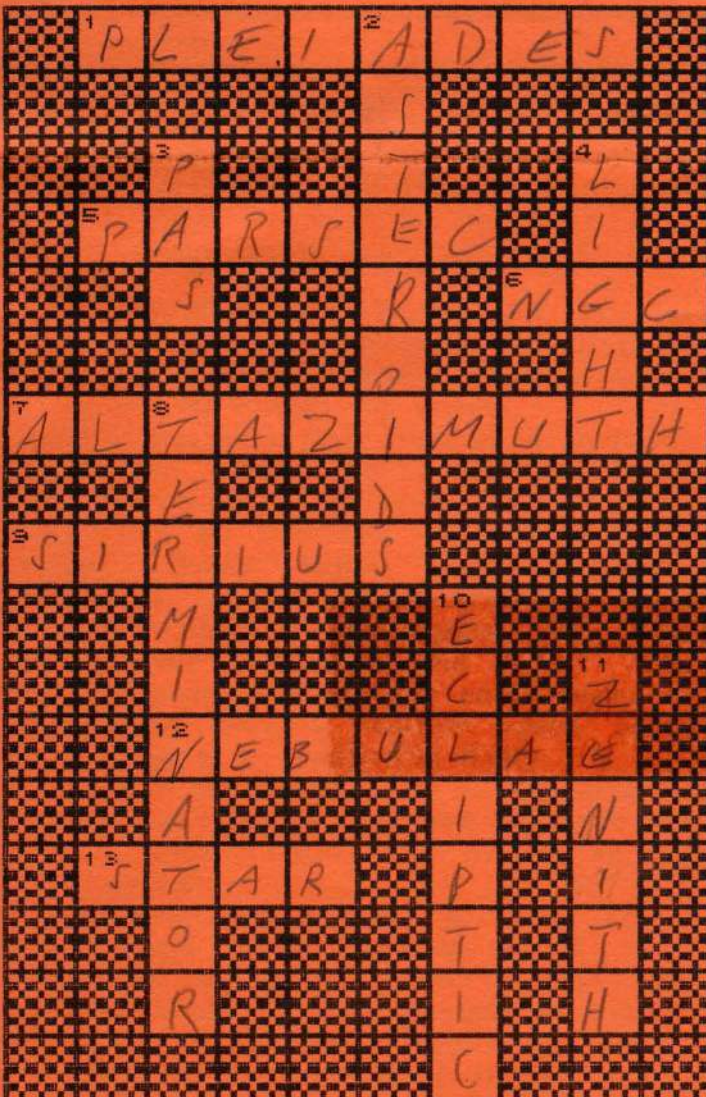
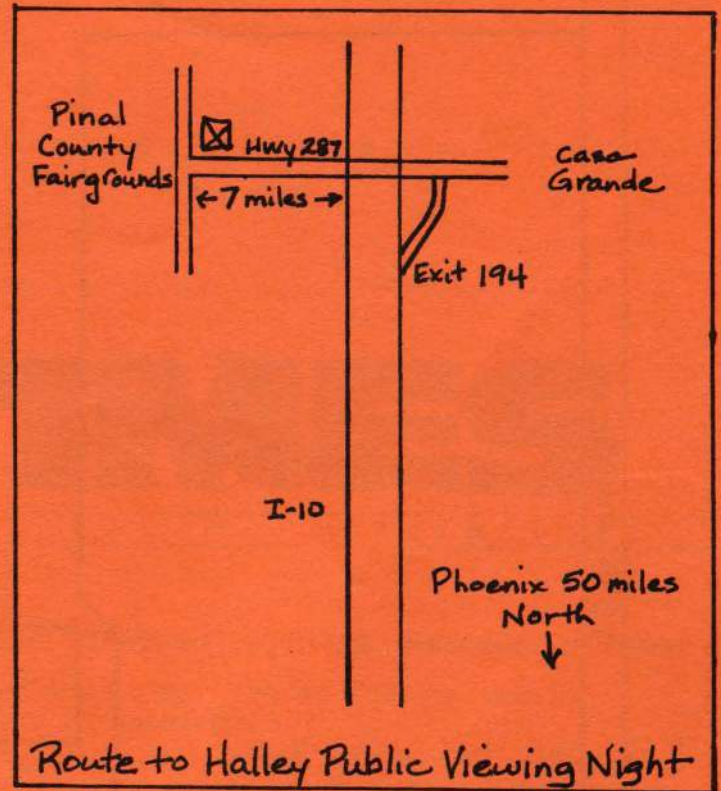
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*		2806 N. 33rd Place		*																	
*		Phoenix, Arizona 85008		*																	

MOON 4 SALE: The Boston Museum of Science is selling craters 30 miles in Diameter for \$25. For \$1000 you can buy the Sea of Tranquility -- where the Eagle landed. You're too late to buy the Sun and planets though. They sold out fast during the museum's last fund raising campaign. Don't laugh too hard. They've brought in \$175,000 over the years.

And from the "WE NEVER HAVE ANY FUN IN PHOENIX" Department: Tucson was treated to about 60 UFO's tracked at 300 mph at about midnight on the 7th of this month. Duration -- 90 minutes. FAA and Davis-Monthan officials have no idea what they were. Just in time for Halloween!

HAROLD MOORIN
11145 KOLINA LANE
RANCHO ESTATES
SUN CITY, ARIZONA 85351



ACROSS CLUES

1. THE SEVEN SISTERS
5. 3.26 LIGHT YEARS
6. NEW GENERAL CATALOG
7. MOUNT PREFERRED ON A WIDE-FIELD TELESCOPE
9. BRIGHTEST STAR AT MAG. -1.6
12. COSMIC PATCHES OF GAS AND DUST
13. A SELF-LUMINOUS GASEOUS BODY

DOWN CLUES

2. CERES IS THE LARGEST OF THESE AT 429 MILES IN DIAMETER
3. FOUNDED IN 1948
4. TYPE OF ASTRONOMICAL POLLUTION
8. DAY/NIGHT HEMISPHERE BOUNDARY
10. YEARLY PATH THE EARTH TRACES AMONG THE STARS
11. POINT DIRECTLY OVERHEAD