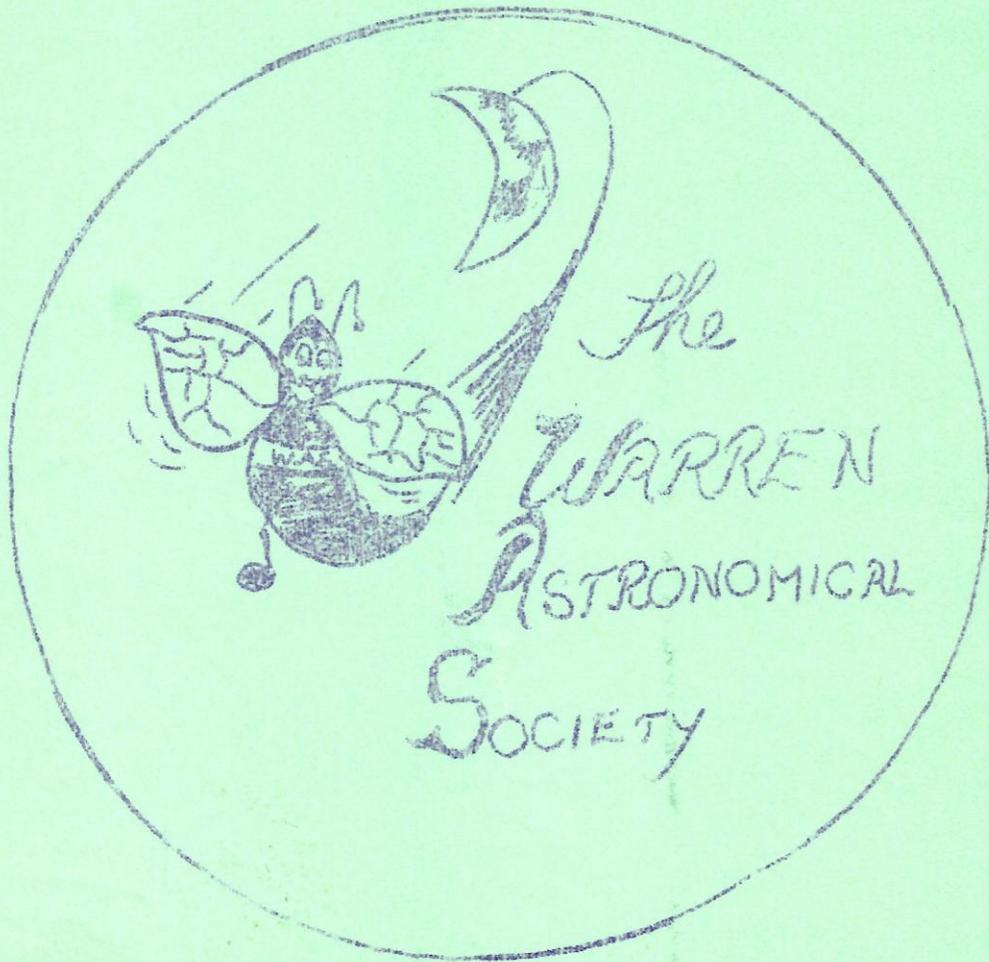


The W.A.S.P.



2nd Anniversary
Issue
March 1969 - March 1971

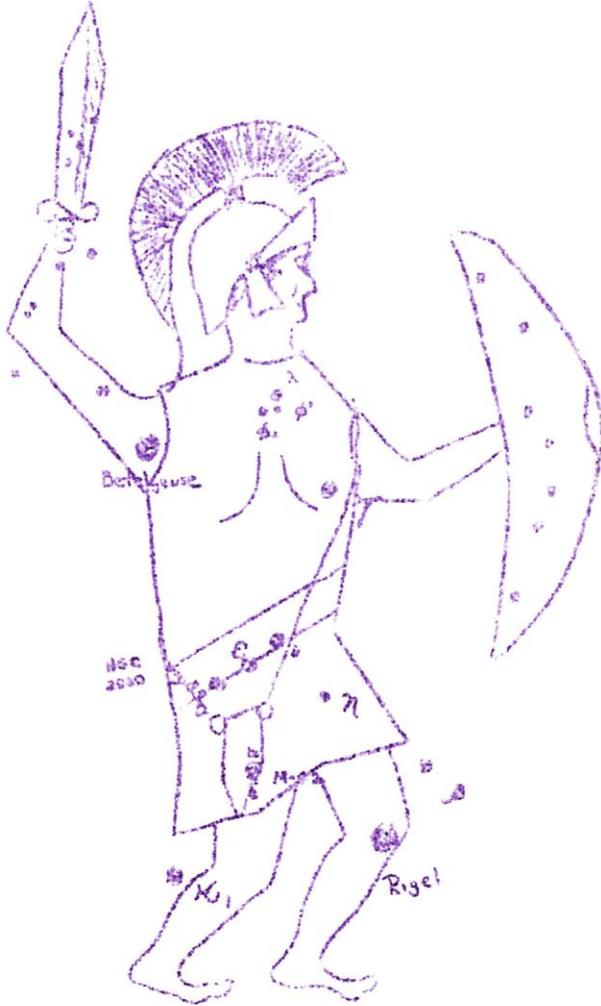
February - March
1971

Editor:
Frank
McCallough

Constellation of the Month — February, March

by:
Frank McCullough

ORION



Since the paper was started, two years ago next month, a constellation which has never appeared in the WASP for some odd reason is ORION. This constellation is my favorite and I'm sure many others' favorite.

Orion, the brightest constellation, is peculiarly associated with the winter. Its oblong figure rises in the early evening as winter approaches, appears in the south at 9 O'clock around the 1st of February, and is setting in the twilight as spring advances.

(Cont.)



This bright region of the heavens inspired a lively scene in the celestial picture book. Orion, a mighty hunter accompanied by his dogs, stands with uplifted sword awaiting the charging Taurus. Red Betelgeuse glows below his shoulder. Blue Rigel diagonally across the figure is somewhat the brighter of the two. Three stars near the center of the rectangle mark Orion's belt, and three fainter ones in line to the south represent his sheath. The middle star of the three appears through the telescope as a trapezium of stars surrounded by the foggy glow of the great nebula in Orion.

The stars of Orion's belt are useful pointers. The line joining them directs the eye northwestward to the Hyades and southeastward to Sirius the "Dog Star," the brightest star in the heavens and one of the nearest. Sirius, Betelgeuse, and a third bright star across the Milky Way form a nearly equal sided triangle. The third one is Procyon, the "Little Dog Star."

SALUTE of the MONTH

The salute of the month goes to Diane Bargiel for the great work she has been doing. Diane does not say much during the meetings, but boy, is she noisy when she is a way. I'm allowed to say these things. Some may wonder what she has done. (Sometimes, I wonder also.) This young lady has taken over as recording secretary and done a fabulous job. It takes her nearly a half an hour to read the minutes. Mr. Kalinowski can't even scratch his nose with out her recording it. It's good when someone takes that much pride in their work.

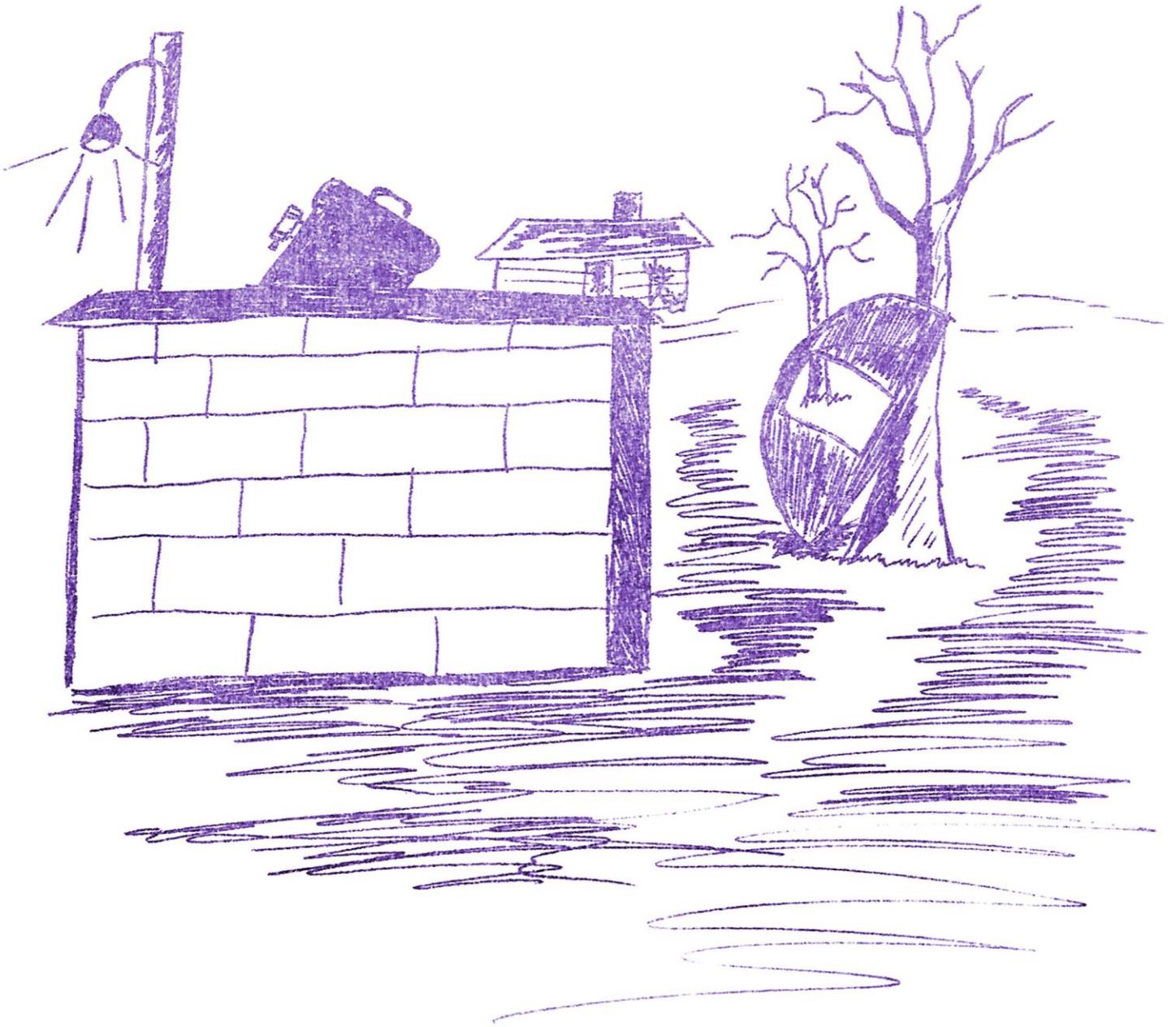
Also not much is asked who runs the paper off and types articles. Again she must get a lot of credit; she has nearly spent as much time as myself running it off. She makes sure we have the dittos and the paper and stacks each page and also helps staple.

This is all tedious work and it consumes much time. These are the reasons for her recognition this month and one of the big reasons we have one of the most successful and well organized clubs in Michigan.

ROTARY

NEWS

(Spring Cleanup)



TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE ** FEBRUARY 1971

Now You See It -- Now You Don't

by: Frank McCullough

The title is very appropriate for what actually took place in Warren, Michigan. I would like to tell you a little of the story of "Now you see it, now you don't."

The early evening looked promising. It was very windy, yet the clouds were broken. Tim S. volunteered the use of his home and backyard for our lunar group. The chill factor was 77° below zero, and the clouds floated gaily above our heads as we arrived at Time's house. Yet the moon was not to be denied. It smiled moonbeams down on our frozen faces. Our equipment was finally set up. I rode my telescope around the backyard for awhile until the wind settled down, but we did have some quiet moments. We went inside to wait until it was time. But time for what? As it turned out, all we waited for were the clouds. Mother nature teased us--we all stood chilled to the bone waiting for a moment when the moon would peak through. There it was! Then it was gone. Again! And gone. I don't think Annie Oakley could have take a shot at the moon and got a picture!

Time passed for us quite quickly. We had hope! We would get pictures! I knew we would, I had faith! As we went out to see totality, I quickly lost my faith. (Did you ever look into your chili to see the bottom of your bowl? Don't be surprised if you don't see it!) The moon was gone completely, never to return until the next evening. We waited through the eclipse playing chess and the game of "Life" (which was quite appropriate for the occasion!)

Now, I guess you wonder what this has to do with the title. It happened like this. Three quarters of the way through the eclipse we did see it, and as the excitement ran through us, Mother Nature told us goodnight as she tucked the moon away for the evening. Tim and I both saw totality briefly with binoculars, but that was all. Mother Nature was a louse that night and I'll never forgive her and neither will five other people . . . unless she gives us a good solar eclipse!

OBSERVATIONAL ASTRONOMY

by: Frank McCullough

M-36 M-37 M-38

I have never been a bug on open clusters, yet with a gibbous moon you do not have much of a choice what you observe. Very faint objects are nearly impossible with the moon we had on February 13, 1970.

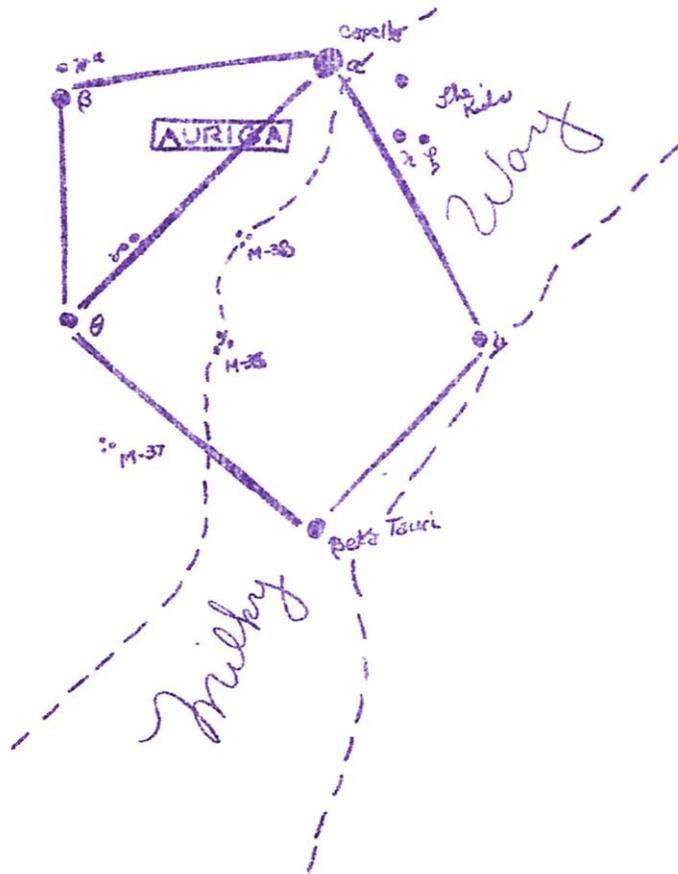
We consisted of Dave Thor, Don Mission, and me. The temperature was 6 below zero without the chill factor. Yet the weather-toughened astronomer presses on. (If he feels anything)

I used my 6" reflector on these three objects from 10:30 p.m. till 11:45 p.m. EST. All of these open clusters are located in the constellation Auriga. I used 67x for my observation of the objects.

In my LOG, I recorded M-36 as being a nice, large open cluster of faint stars of approximately 8th & 9th magnitude. It resembles M-37 as far as being evenly distributed in number of stars. Most of the stars of M-36 appeared approximately of the same magnitude.

M-37 was fairly large, consisting of 8th, 9th, and 10th magnitude stars and appears to be the best of the Auriga trio. M-38 was very loose and very poor in the stars. I counted around eighteen, 7th and 8th magnitude stars. There were fainter stars, of course, and the cluster appeared irregularly shaped. All three clusters can be seen as binocular objects!

OBSERVATIONAL
ASTRONOMY
(cont.)



* Though magnitudes are quite troublesome to predict I have given what they appear to be as I viewed them. From books magnitudes appear as follows.

- M-36 6th mag.
- M-37 6th mag.
- M-38 7th mag.

Mother Nature--I've got a complaint!

The eclipse--one of nature's phenomena. Be it solar or lunar, those who know that one is coming eagerly await. We eagerly awaited, awaited, and awaited.

1. Take a typical Tuesday in January--cloudy, (with snow, for us who love snow--and skiing), overcast, and cold.
2. Nature, par for the course, decides to be showy when very few people can see it: the lunar eclipse was nearly 95 percent covered with clouds.
3. Five members of the astronomy club had planned to witness this event; after having worked and gone to school or whatnot, we set out at eleven o'clock with scopes on stands, cameras on tripods, me with my nifty book of photography so as to learn how to shoot eclipses--on the job training, you might call it, and last but not least, myriads of clothing to protect us from the balmy night brrrrr-eezes, ranging anywhere from 15 to 25 miles per hour.
4. Trying to photograph the moon was a trying experience. We tried and tried. I managed two shots and throughout the night--morning, we all kept at it without much success.
5. Public opinion? Speaking for myself, where I work, only a few know about the eclipse, and there was one who said that he would go out to see it (partially). Sure it was an all-night affair--which I might add, ended at 5:30 a.m., whereupon we topped it off with a lovely breakfast. The lack of interest in this eclipse rather appalled me, although to be fair, when I went to work the next (same) day, they all asked how the eclipse was. The major reaction to the upcoming event was one of: "What eclipse? That late at night?"

I do believe that the classic comment was made by one who has a passing interest in astronomy:

"Doesn't anything ever happen in the day?"

Coward!

MFR (Mary F. Riley)

WHAT TIME IS IT ON THE MOON?

by Kenneth Wilson

If you find Solar Time, Sidereal Time, Local Mean Time, Universal Time, EST, CST, BST, PST and especially, Daylight Savings Time confusing, then wait until you see the proposed official system for keeping time on the moon.

Lunar Time is based on a lunation (1 lunar revolution) which averages 29.530589 terrestrial mean solar days. This is divided into 30 lunes, lunar counterparts to our days (almost equals). These lunes are divided into 24 lunours (lunar hours) nearly equal to an earth hour. The lunours are divided into decilunours, centilunours, and millilunours, etc.) The zero longitude for lunar time corresponds to the zero geographical meridian of the moon, adopted by the Astronomical Union, which runs through Sinus Medii. A lunation begins at new moon, when it is midnight at the zero longitude. First quarter is 7 lunes, 12 lunours. Lunation 1 began at the New Moon of January 15, 1923. On January 8, 1971 (December 31, 1970) the lunation number was 594.

Confused? I don't blame you, but when you have the time, think about it. Maybe some of it will sink in. This proposed system is supposed to be a great aid to lunar travelers, colonists, and navigators. One thing is for certain; Mickey Mouse watches will have to be completely redesigned!

.....
For centuries men of all walks of life have been enthralled by the heavens. Poets have left their observations in verse for us to enjoy. The following are some examples:

But if we steadfast looke
 We shall discern
In, it, as in some holy booke
 How man may heavenly knowledge learne.
 --William Habington

Behind the western bars
The shrouded day retreats,
And unperceived the stars
Steal to their sovran seats.
 --Robert Bridges

I was thinking the day most splendid
 till I saw what the not-day exhibited,
 I was thinking this globe enough till
 there sprang out so noiseless around
 the myriads of other globes.
 ---Walt Whitman

Now glow'd the firmament with living sapphires.
 --John Milton

(Cont.)

Draw me no constellation there,
Nor dog, not goat, nor bull, not bear;
Nor any of the monstrous fry
Of animals that stock the sky.

--John Oldham

Darkness, we see, emerges into the light;
And shining suns descend to sable night.

--John Dryden

Heaven's ebon vault
Studded with stars unutterably bright,
Through which the moon's unclouded grandeur rools.

--John Milton

IS THE MOON DEAD?

by Kenneth Wilson

The most satisfying object for amateur astronomers is the moon. Much detail can be seen at low power in all apertures. But you may be wondering what good regular observations are. The moon is an unchanging, dead world, right? Well, maybe not.

Before 1843, a crater named Linne' was noted by the lunar astronomers Lehrmann, Hadler, and Schmidt. Schmidt made eight drawings of it between 1840 and 1843. All of them described it as six miles wide and at least 1,000 feet in depth, isolated Mare Serenitatis. Then, in 1855, Schmidt observed that the crater had disappeared leaving a small crater-let and a remnant ring. The most probably explanation for the disappearance is a surface disturbance such as a moonquake. There have been other, less documented reports of crater disappearances.

Other alleged phenomenon include fogs or dust observations and the reddening of crater areas.

Since 1953, professional astronomers have seen reddish-orange, glowing regions, some of them sparkling like jewels. These were found in the regions of Kepler and Aristarchus. The most plausible explanation for these areas is solar proton bombardment of enstatite chondrites, which fluoresces red.

Amateur astronomers have a chance of significantly contributing to their science by keeping detailed observational records of any mysterious sightings. If verified, they may prove a significant break-through in lunar astronomy. Detailed records including date, time, place on moon, descriptions, instrument used, place of observation, and if possible, the corroborative observations of a friend. Be careful that your imagination does not influence your observations.

MARCH

3rd - First quarter moon

6th - Mercury at superior conjunction

10--12th - Bootids meteor shower radiant-1^h 32^m, +12°

11th - Full moon, perigee apogee

19th - Last Quarter moon

21st - Vernal equinox

23rd - Jupiter stationary

25th - New moon perigee

Madeline Murray O'Hair, the atheist crusader, obtained 27,000 signed letters protesting the decision of the astronauts to read the Bible as a Christmas message to the world from the spacecraft while orbiting the moon in December of 1968. She plans to present these to the NASA with a demand that they be publicly censured for their acts, and to prevent any further demonstration of faith by public leaders.

This effort, in cooperation with other groups and organizations, seeks to secure 100,000 signed letters commending the astronauts and thus off-setting Mrs. O'Hair's efforts. Lest we take this lightly, we should be reminded that through this woman's efforts we awoke one morning nine years ago to find it illegal to read the Bible and pray in public schools. We should be very sorry if through default she were successful in this latest atheism. Your letter is needed! A form letter is supplied below. Detach this part of the sheet, date your letter, and be sure to include your name and address. This letter must be signed by you to be effective.

Date _____, 1971

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Manned Spacecraft Center
Astronaut Office
Houston, Texas 77058

Dear Sirs:

I personally appreciate and whole-heartedly support the decision of the Astronauts to read the Bible from Spacecraft as they orbited the moon during December 1968. I further support the right of every human being to express his faith in God and the Bible publicly without fear or threat of censure.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

(Address)

(City)

(State) (Zip)