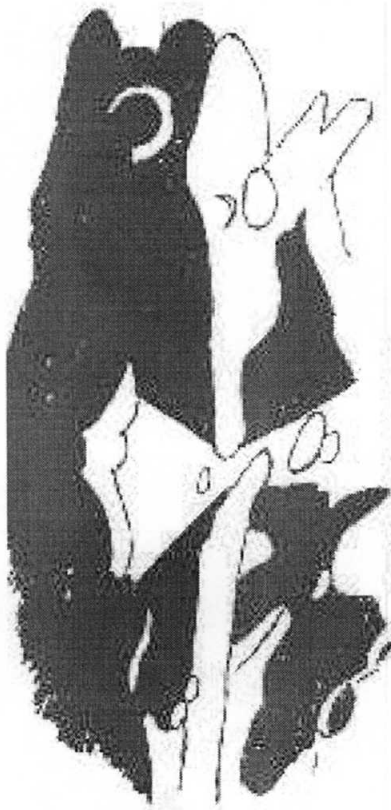


THE LUNAR OBSERVER

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR STUDENTS OF THE MOON
EDITED BY: BILL DEMBOWSKI 219 OLD BEDFORD PIKE WINDBER, PA 15963

APRIL 1998
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FEATURE OF THE MONTH

O'Neill's Bridge (49.3°E - 15.1°N)

Sketch by Gus Johnson
Swanton, Maryland
6 Inch Reflector - 148X

Figure 1

The January 1998 issue of Sky & Telescope magazine carried an article on O'Neill's Bridge, a supposed natural arch between Promontorium Lavinium and Promontorium Olivium on the western shore of Mare Crisium. John J. O'Neill first "saw" the formation on July 23, 1953 and it was later "confirmed" by H. P. Wilkins although in smaller form. The bridge has long since been proven to be only an illusion but still makes for very interesting observing. Gus Johnson of Swanton, Maryland was kind enough to furnish several sketches of the area. The sketch above (Figure 1) was made on March 18, 1987 between 4:20 and 5:25 UT. It was sunset on Mare Crisium, the only time that the bridge has been seen.

Lunar observers are urged to turn their telescopes on this area on the night of April 14-15, 1998. That will be the next time that lighting conditions will favor the "sighting" of the bridge. Your observations of that night are, of course, welcomed and encouraged. Or, if like Gus Johnson, you already have sketches or photographs of sunset on Mare Crisium why not share them with your fellow observers? Remember, an observation that is not shared is an observation that is lost.

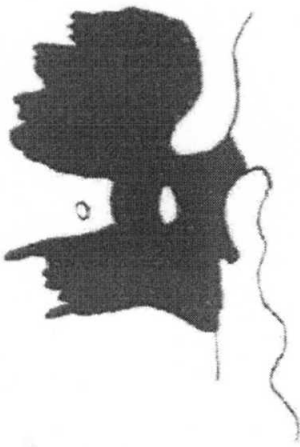


Figure 2

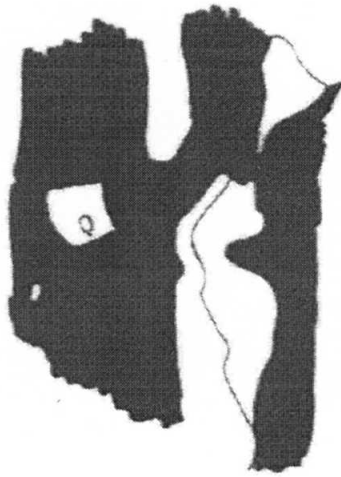


Figure 3



Figure 4

Additional sketches of this region by Gus Johnson include two (Figures 2 & 3) made on August 23, 1986 with a 4-1/4 inch reflector at 190X, and another (Figure 4) made on October 12, 1995 with a 3.2 inch refractor at 129X. We thank Gus for his drawings and hope to see many more from him as well as from our other readers.

Mare Crisium can be found on Map #26 of Rukl's Atlas of the Moon. Try for O'Neill's bridge about four nights after Full Moon (Colongitude approximately 127°).

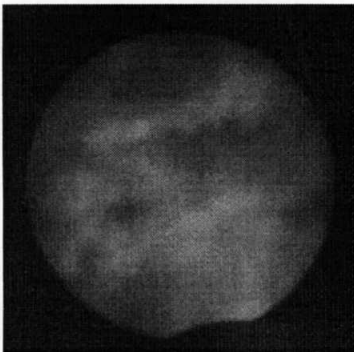
Observations Received During The Month:

Robert H. Hays, Jr. - Worth, Illinois - Timings of 78 stars occulted by the Moon

Robert H. Hays, Jr. - Worth, Illinois - Sketch of Atlas

Gus E. Johnson - Swanton, Maryland - Four sketches of Mare Crisium

Lunar Observer's Notebook



On February 26, 1998 the Moon got in the way of the Sun, that's called an eclipse. As that was happening, a bank of clouds over Elton, Pennsylvania got in the way of both. That's called bad luck.

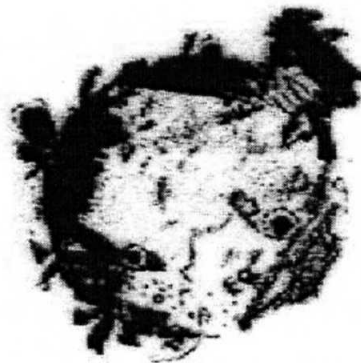
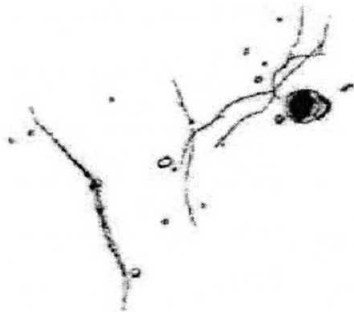
The resulting photo was taken with a 4 inch f/10 SCT fitted with a full aperture solar filter. Time of the photograph was 17:31 UT, approximately six minutes after first contact.

..... *Bill Dembowski*

Lunar Calendar for April 1998 (UT)

3.....20:19.....First Quarter
11.....02:00.....Moon at Apogee (406,335 km)
11.....22:23.....Full Moon
19.....19:53.....Last Quarter
20.....01:00.....Moon 2.7 Degrees North of Neptune
23.....07:00.....Moon 0.3 Degrees North of Jupiter
23.....07:00.....Moon 0.3 Degrees South of Venus
25.....18:00.....Moon at Perigee (358,032 km)
26.....11:42.....New Moon (Start of Lunation 932)
28.....02:00.....Moon 2.0 Degrees South of Vesta

Topographical Studies:



Triesnecker & Hyginus Rilles

Ptolemaeus

Sketches by David J. Lehman - Fresno, California

10" Reflector - 155X

November 11, 1994

From The Editor:

As a result of several requests from TLO readers, hard copies can now be obtained in two ways. As always, copies are available by sending a set of Self-Addressed-Stamped-Envelopes to the editor at the address shown at the top of the newsletter. We will send you an issue each month until your envelopes are gone. Now, if you prefer, you may simply subscribe at the rate of \$5.00 for twelve issues.

Clear & steady skies W.M.D.