

COMPLIMENTARY COPY

Volume I, Number 1

March 1, 1947

# THE STROLLING ASTRONOMER

(Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers)

MAILING ADDRESS:

THE STROLLING ASTRONOMER  
Institute of Meteoritics  
University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, N. M.

## DEDICATION

Astronomy is one of the sublimest fields of human investigation. The mind that grasps its facts and principles receives something of the enlargement and grandeur belonging to the science itself. -- It is a quickener of devotion. --

H. MANN.

## AN APPEAL

There exist amateur astronomers; there exist the telescopes they have built; there exist the moon and the planets. This leaflet is an attempt to persuade the party of the first part to use the party of the second part to increase knowledge of the party of the third part.

We hope to show herein some ways in which John Q. Amateur can profitably study our sister-worlds (perhaps literally neighbor-worlds in an impending age of space travel) and to give him some instructions on how to do so. It is our hope also to call his attention to current happenings of special interest. We urge John Q. Amateur to submit to us the lunar and planetary observations which he makes and shall undertake to study them and to report our findings through published papers in astronomical magazines. And if he wishes to write an article for this leaflet about "The Voracious Mosquito Compared to the Companionable Skunk as a Telescopic Accessory", or even some other subject - we shall be glad to receive his manuscript. We think that we can introduce John Q. to some interesting people and can show him a pleasant and fascinating hobby.

And now, friends, our fate is in your hands. Whether this embryonic leaflet is to be permitted to develop into a lusty infant depends entirely on your response. We propose to send you six future monthly mailings for one dollar. If our plan appears worthy of your support to that degree, we thank you as friends of lunar and planetary science. How about it?

*Walter H. Haas*

## A DARK SOUTH TROPICAL STREAK ON JUPITER

It is risky to tell our readers what to look for on Jupiter; for the changes on this fascinating planet are so unpredictable that one is usually talking of what was, not of what is.

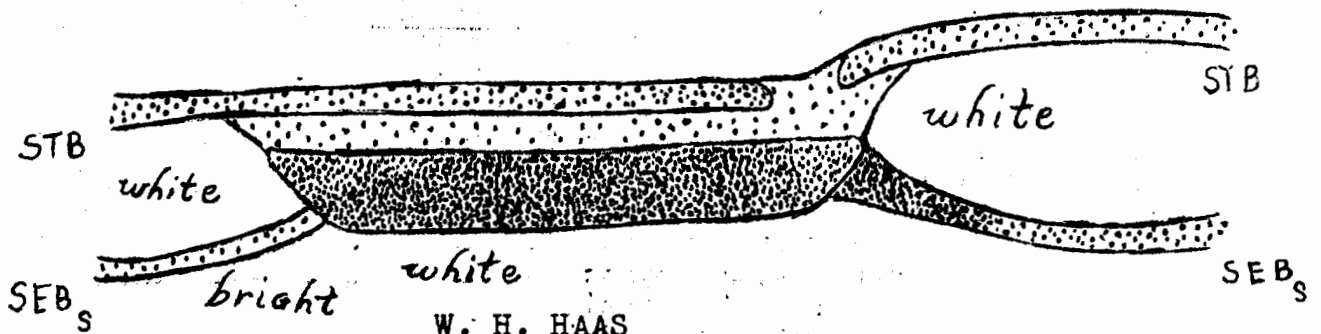
We shall venture, though, to direct attention to a very dark streak just north of the south temperate belt, the second most conspicuous Jovian belt which lies about midway between the center of the disc and the south limb. The center of the streak is now (February 23) near  $\lambda_2 340^\circ$ . The streak should be well-placed for study near these A.M., C.S.T. times: March 6 at 3:00, March 8 at 5:00, March 13 at 4:00, March 18 at 3:00, March 20 at 4:30, March 25 at 4:00, and March 27 at 5:30.

Suitable intermediate times may be approximated by using the rotation-period of 9 hours, 50 minutes.

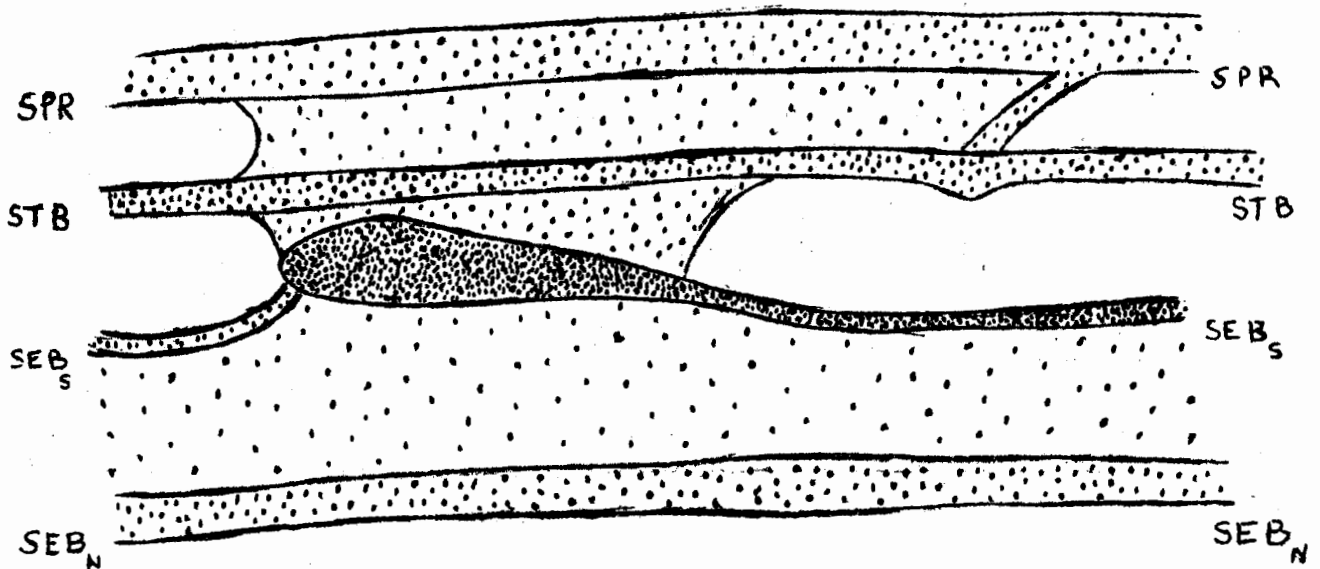
This streak in the planet's south tropical zone bears a striking resemblance to an object seen there in 1941 and 1942. It is probably identical with another object of the same general aspect observed during much of 1946. Jovian phenomena, in fact, show a curious tendency to repeat themselves.

The south component of the south equatorial belt is deflected into the streak at its preceding (left in inverting telescope) end and then bends northward to its usual latitude from the streak's following end. The streak of 1941 and 1942 had an analogous effect on this belt. Again, this same belt for a number of years now has usually been notably dark following (right of, in telescope) the Red Spot. What do these things tell us about the physical nature of the surface of Jupiter?

Observers are urged to sketch the streak and its vicinity, to note its color, and to time (to the nearest minute) the passage of its preceding and following ends, or other readily recognized points in it, across the central meridian of Jupiter.

SOUTH TROPICAL STREAK ON JUPITER

W. H. HAAS  
 February 7, 1947  
 4:50 - 5:05 A.M., M.S.T.  
 6-inch reflector  
 141X  
 Seeing poor  
 Sky slightly hazy to clear



E. J. REESE  
 February 12, 1947  
 5:40 - 6:50 A.M., E.S.T.  
 6-inch reflector  
 240X  
 Seeing poor  
 Sky slightly hazy

## CELESTIAL HASH

We request observations of a possible dark band across the ball of Saturn adjacent to the north edge of the ring-ellipse and parallel to that edge. Is the feature an illusion? Or a Saturnian belt in high northern latitudes? Or perhaps the projection of a sometimes-reported dusky ring outside of Ring A? The band, if there, is not the shadow of the rings.

Try your luck with the spots, streaks, and shadings in the lunar crater Plato; and send us your drawings. We warn you: This detail is delicate; but good work has been done with only 6-inch apertures.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
 Ever twinkling, there afar.  
 Awful seeing all the night!  
 Darn your scintillating light!

R. Barker, "Brendon", Crossbrook Street, Cheshunt, Herts., England, has sent a drawing of a difficult cleft connecting the lunar crater Manners to the famous Ariadaeus cleft. He desires a confirmation.

We suggest to amateurs having telescopes of the usual focal lengths of, say, 50 to 70 inches, that it is worthwhile to obtain an eyepiece of equivalent focal length  $1/3$ ". Such an eyepiece will often be more useful than either  $1/2$ " or  $1/4$ " eyepieces. O. E. Monning, 1010 Morningside Drive, Fort Worth, Texas, has supplied us with an eyepiece of e.f.l.  $1/3$ ", which has been very helpful in recent lunar and planetary observations.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ELMER J. REESE, 241 South Mount Vernon Avenue, Uniontown, Pennsylvania, for excellent observations of Venue, Jupiter, Saturn, Plato, and Aristarchus, which he has submitted to us. Mr. Reese's telescope is a 6-inch reflector and demonstrates what energetic users can do with good small instruments.

H. PERCY WILKINS, 127 Eversley Avenue, Barnehurst, Kent, England, for what is unquestionably the best map of the Moon yet published. Any serious lunar student must get a copy. Mr. Wilkins is Acting Lunar Director of the British Astronomical Association and will welcome American contributions to lunar studies.

A. F. O'D ALEXANDER, the Saturn Director of the British Astronomical Association, 1 Athelstan Road, Dorchester, Dorset, England, for working out a laudable and extensive program of Saturn observations outlined in several Section Circulars. Dr. Alexander, too, will welcome American observers.

DAVID P. BARCROFT, Madera, California, for the loan of a book on Saturn. Mr. Bancroft's personal lunar and planetary library is perhaps the best private one in the country. He is very generous with his splendid collection.

E. K. WHITE, Chapman Camp, B.C., Canada; F. R. VAUGHN, 1368 East 53rd Street, Chicago, Illinois; H. M. JOHNSON, 1118 West 26th Street, Des Moines, Iowa; C. F. GRAMM, 398 Beresford Road, Rochester, New York; A. W. MOUNT, 4326 Birchman Street, Fort Worth, Texas; and E. J. REESE, all of whom have submitted to us observations of Saturn for the years 1943-6.

There are many others who merit mention for excellent contributions. These will receive space in future publications.

Editor: WALTER H. HAAS, Instructor of Mathematics,  
University of New Mexico.  
Astronomer, Institute of Meteoritics,  
University of New Mexico,  
Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Counsellor: Dr. L. LA PAZ, Head of Mathematics Dept.,  
University of New Mexico.  
Director, Institute of Meteoritics,  
University of New Mexico,  
Albuquerque, New Mexico.

## A T T E N T I O N

This publication is for the purpose of coordinating the activities of amateur astronomers. It is a non-profit project; however, to cover the cost of publication and mailing of future issues, the minimum cost of one dollar for six copies is requested.

If you would like to join in the activities of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers, please fill in the coupon below, clip, and mail.

-----

---

Please send six (6) monthly issues of THE STROLLING  
 ASTRONOMER to: \_\_\_\_\_

Name

Address

City

State

I herewith enclose \$1.00 to cover the cost of publication  
 and mailing.

---