

...A Good Month For Stargazers, Too

By LEMMESEE
Outdoors Writer

Like most folks who love the outdoors, I like to take a look at the sky at night, and think. But I also like to study the heavens, and August is a good

month to do it. It's fun to pause while night-plugging for bass or just sitting out on the patio with my dog, and it helps to know a little about the sky.

This month's double feature will be a partial eclipse of the moon and a meteor shower.

THE PERSEID shower, this year's most spectacular display of falling stars, can be seen Monday through Wednesday Aug. 10-12.

And next Sunday, Aug. 16, the eclipse will begin at 9:18 p.m.

I talked to Hazel Losh, the popular and lovable professor of astronomy at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, about the meteors, and she told me this:

may be seen for two or three weeks, but it's around Aug. 10 that they reach their peak." The natural fireworks will amount to about one meteor flash per minute during the peak. These "shooting stars" — are caused by bits of stone and iron, often no bigger than a grain of sand. Entering the earth's atmosphere at about 40 miles per second, most of them burn away well before reaching the ground.

Astonomers believe that the tiny particles in meteor showers are the remains of comets that have disintegrated. Prof. Losh told me the swarm that produces the Perseid shower is probably rather evenly strewn along its long elliptical path around the sun. This results in a uniform shower every year, the U-M astronomer explained.

As many from the constellation Perseus, a giant "K" that rises in the northeastern sky at about 10 p.m. Although Perseid meteors can be seen streaking across all parts of the sky, their paths seem to point back toward Perseus.

The pair "blinks" every 60 hours when its darker member passes in front of the brighter one. Within five hours the star dims noticeably, but regains its lost brightness in another five hours.

Halsler Promoted By Norwood

John J. Halsler of 6927 Dover, Garden City, has been promoted to vice president of the Joe E. Norwood Real Estate Co.

He has been manager of a 20-member sales staff. He now will also assume additional responsibilities over branch offices.


Norwood is building a new branch office in Garden City. It is scheduled to open in September with a sales force of 10.

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