Harvest moon due Friday; next, Hunter's Moon

THE FULL MOON that occurs at 7:51 a.m. on Sept. 15 is a very special one. It's called the Harvest Moon. But since we have full moons every month throughout, the year, what makes this one so special?

Because the moon is in orbit around the carth, it appears in different parts of the sky from night to night. Generally the moon will rise about one hour later each night. But in autumn the full moon is located about one hour later each night. But in autumn the full moon is located the part of the moon so both that as about one hour later each night. But in autumn the full moon is located and long the horton, rising at about the same time cach evening, in about the same part of the sky. In fact, for the four evenings starting with the Sept. 3; each moon rise occurs within 25 minutes of the previous nights. The light scattered by the full moon was a help to farmers, allowing them to continue their harvesting after sunset. Hence it was called the Harvest Moon. The full moon that follows the Harvest Moon was said to be a help to hunters. You can figure out what that full moon is called. People occasionally wonder if the phase of the moon has any effect on humans. It really shouldn't be expected to have any effect at all. We condifice the phases of the moon depending on what part is being lituminated.

LOOK FOR THE moon in the earth, boar any factor best between the four to the part of the purchal if hour

LOOK FOR THE moon in the east northeast, three and one-half hours after sunset, on the Sept. 19. It is lo-cated in the constellation of Taurus the bull. Above and to the right of the moon is the Pleiades (PLEE a dees) star cluster. Looking like a tlny

dipper, this star cluster will be difficolt to see in the light scattered by
the moon. Binoculars will help in locating the Pleiades.

On Wedneaday morning, the
Pleiades, he moon and the star Alderbaran (al DEB a ran) form a
large triangle high in the southwest.
Aldebaran represents the bull's eye.
Last Quarter Moon is at 10:19 p.m.
on Sept. 21. It is at the last quarter of
its orbit around the earth. The moon
will rise in the east northeast at
about midnight.

Jupiter is four degrees south of
(below) the moon on the morning of
the 22nd. Look high in the southeast
about 45 minutes before suntise. The
two "twin" stars to the east (left) of
Jupiter are Caster and Pollux, each
one representing a head of the Geminitwins.

Autumn officially begins at 9:20
p.m. on Sept. 22. But what is it that
determines that precise moment?
It's a combination of the earth's orbit and its tilt.

Earth is divided into a northerm

determines that precise moment? It's a combination of the earth's orbit and its tilt.

Earth is divided into a northern hemisphere and a southern hemisphere and a southern hemisphere by an imaginary line called the equator. If this equator is extended out into space it etus the sky into a northern and southern hemisphere, but now the imaginary line is called the celestial equator.

Our earth is tilted 23½ degrees above the celestial equator or 23¼ degrees below it. When the sun is at its highest point in the sky north of the celestial equator, in June when the days are long and warm, we have summer. When the sun is at its lowest, in December when the days are short and cold, we have winter.

Obviously there are two points where the sun must cross over the celestial equator. Once when going from above the equator to below,

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and another going from below to above.

The precise moment of crossover, going from north to south, is when autumn officially begins for the northern hemisphere. A person standing on earth's equator at local noon would see the sun directly overhead on the celestial equator. The sun will rise due east and set due

west. The length of the day and length of night are about equal, so this is called the equinox.

Although we may be facing the start of autumn, people below the equator face the start of spring.

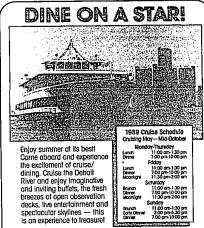
THE MOON, Castor and Politux form a triangle on the morning of the Sept. 23. Notice how far the

moon has moved in just one day. The moons daily motion is very easy to notice when it passes bright stars and planets.

more were it passes origin stars and planets.
Mercury is officially at inferior conjunction on September 24. The hand the sun and is not visible. When and it is not an inferior solution with the sun and is not visible. When Mercury is located beyond the sun, as seen from the earth, it is called superior conjunction.)
Regulus (REG or lus), the "heart" of Leo the lion, is the bright star five degrees below the waning crescent moon on the morning of the 26th.
Mars is in conjunction with the sun

on the 29th. Mars is located behind the sun, as seen from the earth, and in not visible. "Interior" or "upperi-or" conjunction is not specified with Mars because, unlike Mercury, Mars never gets between the earth and the, sun and can never be at inferior con-junction.

Raymond Bullock is the former coordinator of the planetarium and observatory at the Cranbrook Institute of Science. He now works for a Trop-based company, that specializes in laser displays and effects.



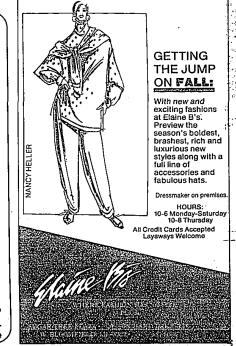
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