

Venus, Mercury vie for attention in October sky

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By Raymond E. Bullock
special writer

October will feature two special sky events unlike any others during the year. Venus will be its very brightest on the same day Mercury makes its best morning appearance.

On Oct. 1 Venus was high in the Eastern sky before sunrise at magnitude -4.3. The magnitude of an object is a measurement of its brightness. The brightest stars are 1st-magnitude. The comet 2nd, 3rd and so on. The faintest stars the naked eye can see (in a dark, clear sky) are 6th-magnitude.

Since some objects are brighter than the brightest stars, they have been given negative magnitude numbers. The only objects brighter than Venus are the full moon (-12.5) and the sun (-26.5). Mercury reached its maximum elongation from the sun on Oct. 1. Maximum elongation (greatest distance an object appears to be from the sun) is

measured in degrees. On that date Mercury was 18 degrees west (right) of the sun and was visible before sunrise. At magnitude -0.7, Mercury will look like a bright star near the horizon.

FINDING Mercury and other objects in the morning sky will be made easier by following the moon.

On the morning of Oct. 3 the waxing crescent moon was north (left) of the bright 1st-magnitude star Regulus, the heart of Leo the lion.

To the south (left) of Regulus is brilliant Venus. Only a few degrees to the red planet Mars. Mars, at 2nd-magnitude object at this time, much fainter than Mercury, which is close to the horizon.

Watch the motion of Mars and Venus this month by noting how their positions change from week to week with respect to Regulus.

skywatch

The moon stood directly above Mercury on Tuesday. Binoculars will not only help you spot Mercury, they will serve the this crescent moon.

New moon today. It isn't visible in the sky.

On Friday evening, the waxing crescent moon will be only 1.4 degrees north (right) of Saturn. Both objects are low in the west-southwest and although Saturn is a 1st-magnitude object, its nearness to the horizon will make it very difficult to spot. Binoculars will be helpful.

For two nights in a row the moon, Jupiter and the star Antares will form a triangle. Bright Jupiter (magnitude -1.9) is the peak of the triangle, Antares (magnitude 1) is to the lower left and the moon to the lower right.

The next night the moon has moved to the upper left of Antares and Jupiter.

By Oct. 12 Jupiter has moved to within 5 degrees of Antares as the planet slowly orbits the sun.

THE MOON is at first quarter phase on Oct. 13 and is full on the 21st. This is

the Hunter's Moon, so named because its light aided hunters out after dark. Unfortunately, the full moon hinders meteor "sunsets" this year.

The Orionid meteor shower reaches its maximum on the night of the full moon. This meteor shower produces an average of only 25 meteors each hour, and the moon's light will make seeing those few meteors even more difficult.

If you have been keeping track of Mars and Venus in the morning sky, you will have noticed them drawing closer to each other all month. On the morning of Oct. 28 Venus is 1.7 degrees south (right) of Mars. These two planets will not have another conjunction (grouping) with each other until Feb. 7, 1985. Also on Oct. 28 the moon is at last quarter phase.

Daylight Saving Time ends Saturday night-Sunday morning of Oct. 29-30 as clocks are set back one hour. The length of the day has been decreasing

this month by one hour 23 minutes. On Oct. 1 we had 11 hours 46 minutes of daylight, but by the end of the month it's down to 10 hours 24 minutes.

Setting our clocks back neither changes the amount of daylight we receive nor the rising position of the sun. It only changes the time we will see the sun rise and set.

On Oct. 29 sunrise is at 8:02 a.m. and sunset at 6:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. On Oct. 31 sunrise is at 7:03 a.m. and sunset is at 6:27 p.m. Eastern Standard Time — same amount of daylight, just different time.

The telescope at Cranbrook Institute of Science is open every Saturday night from 8:30 to 10 p.m. for viewing the sky. For more information, please call 645-3200.

The author is coordinator of the planetarium and observatory at Cranbrook Institute of Science.

Tuesday Musicales begins new season

Tuesday Musicales of Pontiac begins its new season with a 1 p.m. concert next Tuesday. It will be held at Central United Methodist Church, 3881 Highland, Pontiac and will feature Dorothy Berry, soprano and Sara Lee Taylor, flutist.

Tuesday Musicales memberships are open to the public. Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month.

On Monday, the Musicales will host a luncheon meeting of the Southeast District of Michigan Federation of Music Clubs. For reservations or membership information, call Jill Crane, 360-1713.

Etchings on auction block

From 1929-1939, during some of the best years of the J.L. Hudson Gallery, a young woman who had inherited some money from a relative got hooked on etchings.

She carefully selected her purchases, choosing works by Whistler, Hopper, Rembrandt, Sir William Russell Flint, Mase, Gray, Nolde, Rodin, Morris Henry, Hobbs, John Sloan and many others — all names associated with fine art, even the less familiar ones easily verified in books on fine graphics.

All of them were mounted with acid-free mats. She meant to frame them but until she did she kept her art from Hudsons in a brown paper bag in a closet.

The collection, to be sold this weekend at Frank E. Pomeroy, Adams and Lincoln, Birmingham, is virtually untouched since the day each was bought. None of the images has been damaged by light. None has age marks made by the deterioration of the matting paper. A wonderful testimony to acid-free matting, all still bear the Hudson labels and code numbers and most have the prices still on them.

She paid \$30 for one of the prizes of the collection, "Evening Wind" by Edward Hopper and \$35 for "Hurlington," by James A. McNeill Whistler. Some are bought for as little as \$15. For a very few, like John Sloan's "Tenth Avenue Critic," she paid as much as \$45.

Finally, as Boos tells the story, a relative suggested she quit spending her money so frivolously, so she stopped, but not before she had acquired a collection destined to bring close to six figures.

This weekend's auction will be the sixth by Boos since he opened his own firm in the remodeled showroom with the fully computerized staff. He has been an appraiser and auctioneer in the metropolitan area for more than 20 years. He was formerly associated with David Statler in the Great American Building at Birmingham.

The two-day sale of these and other works of art, antique furniture, silver, porcelain, clocks and more will start at 11 a.m. Saturday and noon Sunday.

Exhibition hours are 9-8 p.m. today and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, 1137 S. Adams, Birmingham.

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AETNA REALTY OPEN SUNDAY 2-5

BLOOMFIELD
4015 PARKWOOD, S. of Lincoln, E. of Telegraph off Birmingham. Elevated site complements the wooded home setting surrounding this elegant country colonial. 4 bedrooms plus sitting room, 2 1/2 baths, huge family room with open hearth, fireplace and indoor barbecue, enclosed terrace with skylights, finished rec room, attached garage. Quality throughout. Superlative location. \$184,500.

WEST BLOOMFIELD
5633 APPLE RIDGE, S. of Walnut Lake, W. of Orchard Lake. POWDER HORN HILLS — unusually sharp well-maintained 1 1/2 acres with 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, family room with full wall fireplace and wet bar. Large country kitchen, circular drive, sprinkling system. Magnificent view of fine homes. Specially priced at \$137,900.

6912 SHILLINGHAM, S. of Walnut Lake, W. of Farmington. NEW CONTINENTAL — 1 1/2 acres, horse and ranch in neutral tones with 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, fireplace family room, first floor laundry and rec room, wrap-around deck with beautiful landscaping. A MUST SEE! Owner anxious. \$123,000.

6571 OLD CARRIAGE LANE, S. of Walnut Lake, W. of Orchard Lake. Exceptionally sharp, well-maintained colonial with 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, beautifully finished and carpeted rec room, large family room with fireplace and pegged hardwood floors, 2nd floor laundry, central air and much more. A MUST SEE at \$134,900.

FRANKLIN
24450 TUDOR, S. of 14 Mile, W. of Telegraph. 1/2 acre lot surrounds this neat and trim tri-level with 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, formal dining room, remodeled kitchen, huge family room with fireplace. Newer roof and drive. Come, take a look. \$85,900.

FARMINGTON HILLS
27219 HYSTONE, N. of 11 Mile, W. of Inkster. Sharp 3 bedroom brick colonial, family room with fireplace, 2 car garage, central air, new neutral carpeting. Finished basement with wet bar and law. Large assumable mortgage, immediate occupancy. \$84,900.

HUNTINGTON WOODS
25421 SCOTIA, N. of 10 Mile, W. of Woodward. Unbeatable value! Beautiful site complements the wooded home setting surrounding this elegant country colonial. 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, family room with lovely fireplace and built-in. You must see all the extra features. \$119,900.

BOUTFIELD
23540 RIVERVIEW, S. of 12 Mile, W. of Bell Rd., enter from Coventry Woods. Best Maintained Home 1983 by the Western Wayne Oakland County Board of Realtors. Freshly painted, Bell Road area. 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, great room with bar, library, Dramatic 2 story foyer with circular stairway, imported marble and ceramic tile, great Pella woodwork kitchen, 2 story Jaccuzzi, finished basement. Superb landscaping, ravine lot. \$175,565.

21070 HARVARD, N. of 11 Mile, E. of LaSalle. BEACON SQUARE — Land Contract terms offered on this stunning 3 bedroom colonial, 27 ft. master bedroom suite, 2 1/2 baths, fireplace, wood floor and sprinkling system. Completely updated in superb taste. Finished basement, magnificent plantings. Mini condition. \$85,700.

AETNA REALTY
5640 W. MAPLE, WEST BLOOMFIELD
626-4800

West Bloomfield from \$85,990



\$522 a month

Greenbriar Village
3/4 mile west of Farmington Rd. on Walnut Lake Rd. From the 80's. Call Vicky Bryan 349-7940

*Sales price of \$85,990 20% down payment of \$17,240 \$68,750 30 year mortgage. Payment 1-12 \$52.50, 13-24 \$62.19, 25-60 \$72.38. 13.56% annual compounded rate. 61-360 converted to FHLMC 60 day mandatory rate.

PULTE
Real Estate
Savannah from \$85,990