

# Shine on, shine on Harvest Moon - on Friday



RAYMOND E. BULLOCK

Summer didn't pass us by after all; we had it one day on August 10! If you were out of town, you blinked, you missed it.

The temperature hit 91, making it only the second time this year 90 degrees was reached.

Back in July we had only twice the normal amount of rainfall. Well, it certainly has been nice for the flower gardens!

The eruption of Mt. Pinatubo on June 15, 1991, has been credited (or blamed) for the unusual weather conditions. It spewed more than 20 megatons of sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere. Experts predict there may be a temporary break in global warming as sunlight is reflected by the particles back into space. There may be unusual cold from now through 1993, with a return to warmer temperatures later in the decade.

The operative words through all this are "may be."

Predictions about astronomical events are more certainty than guess. While Mt. Pinatubo may affect the visibility of some events (the partial lunar eclipse on June 14 was unusually dark), the time that events will occur can be determined well in advance.

September, as everyone knows, is the month in which autumn begins. It is also the month of the Harvest Moon. Of the five naked-eye planets, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn will be seen with ease; Mercury and Venus will be difficult. Mercury and Mars will be pre-dawn objects; the other three will be in the evening sky.

Full Moon is at 10:17 p.m. on Sept. 11. This full moon is a very special one; it's called the Harvest Moon. We have full moons every month throughout the year, so what makes this one so special?

Because the moon is in orbit around the earth, 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 at the part of its orbit that has the least tilt with respect to Earth's horizon line. The moon seems to skim along the horizon, rising at about the same time each evening. In about the same part of

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the sky. In fact, for the four evenings starting with the 9th, each moon rise occurs within 23 minutes of the previous night!

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 probably figure out what that full moon is called.

People occasionally wonder if the phase of the moon has an effect on humans. It really shouldn't be expected to have any effect at all! We see different phases of the moon depending on what part is being illuminated by the sun. Because the moon is always somewhere near the earth, any effect it could have should be a constant one, and not dependent on how much of the moon is being illuminated.

Mercury is at superior conjunction on the 15th. It is located behind the sun and is not visible. It becomes an evening object in October, but will not be well placed for observing.

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## Mammogram can help you, someone else

Mammograms and breast care seminars will be available at Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall Friday, Sept. 11, through Monday, Sept. 14.

Appointments can be made from: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday; noon to 4:15 p.m. Sunday and noon to 6 p.m. on Monday.

The event, sponsored by the Lis Claiborne Foundation Community Breast Care Initiative, in association with the National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations, will provide screening mammograms to women 35 and older by the Oakland County Health Department.

For every woman who is screened,

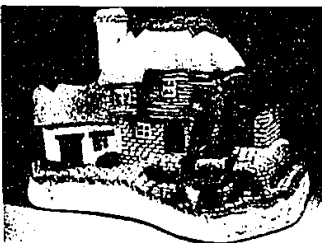
the Lis Claiborne Foundation will donate funds to provide free mammograms for women who cannot afford them.

Also, Oakland County health professionals will conduct free informational seminars. To register for a mammogram, call (313) 424-7100.

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