

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF FRANKSTON INC.NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 1985Meeting, Wednesday October 23rd

Jim Park, Director of the Variable Star Section, Astronomical Society of Victoria, will present an illustrated talk on the Crab Nebula from its birth as a supernova observed by the Chinese in 1054, to its present form of an expanding shell of nebulosity with central pulsar.

This is the talk that was postponed from the August meeting and it will be delivered in Room F6 of the Upper School, Peninsula School, Mt. Eliza commencing at 8 p.m.

Meeting, Wednesday November 27th

A representative from ASV's Astrophotographic Section is to give a talk to the Society. More details next month.

Observing Night for October

The Society Observing Night for October will be held on Saturday, October 5th at the Observatory site, Peninsula School commencing at 7.30 p.m. Should the Saturday night be clouded out the following night, Sunday October 6th, will be substituted. Please bring portable telescopes for a night near Last Quarter of the Moon, when Jupiter will be well placed and galaxies in Sculptar and Fornax will also be high in the sky.

ASV Annual Exhibition and Field Night, October 12th

This yearly function, which allows amateur astronomers to meet and see what other amateur astronomers are doing in pursuit of their hobby is to be held this year on Saturday, October 12th at the National Herbarium, Dallas Brooks Drive.

It is suggested that members wishing to attend the

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### Observing Nights for August and September

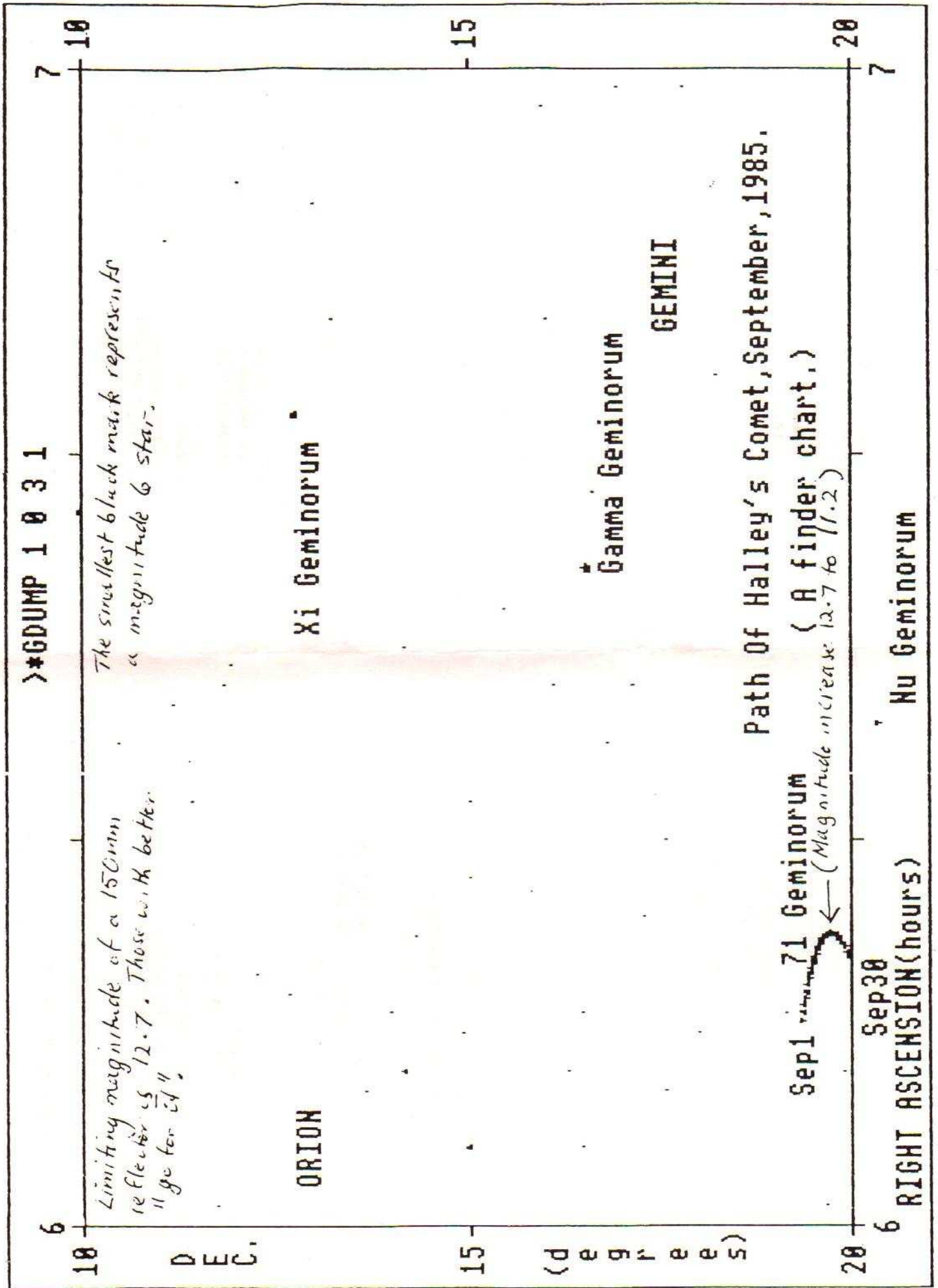
It has been decided not to hold these viewing nights owing to the extensive ground works in progress on our viewing sight at Peninsula School.

### Society News

The talk at the July meeting was given by Peter Norman and concerned recent astronomical theories of the extinction of many species of life at 26 million year intervals. These theories refer to collisions between the earth and showers of meteors or asteroids or comets as the cause of extinction. These showers may have been caused either by a companion star of the sun called "Nemesis" or by a tenth planet X or by planet Jupiter.

Recent good news concerning members include Peter Brown's return to work and Arthur Higginson's successful hip operation. Steve and June Malone have resumed their trip around Australia, Ken Bryant has completed an enjoyable trip around the world and Bruce Tregaskis is leaving for two weeks in Indonesia.

A working bee is planned for Saturday 14th September at 9 a.m. at the Peninsular School observatory site. Interested members are invited to attend with shovels and barrows, etc. - weather permitting.



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Planets. The early evening sky is currently dominated by the brilliant planet Jupiter which was at opposition (due north at midnight) on August 4th. A never-ending parade of satellite phenomena - occultations, eclipses, transits and shadow transits - is available to the observer with a telescope on any suitably clear night. Further west in Libra the ringed planet Saturn is approaching the Sun and moving towards the evening twilight with its ring system wide open for observation in the telescope.

Early morning observers will also see brilliant Venus before sunrise in the East as the planet moves slowly towards superior conjunction (on the far side of the Sun) early in 1986, and through a telescope a steadily increasing phase, or percentage illuminated, will be noticed.

### The Moon

New Moon	Sep 15	Oct 14
First Quarter	" 21	" 21
Full Moon	" 29	" 29
Last Quarter	Oct 7	Nov 6