

LOW IN THE WEST

Sagittarius stands between Jupiter and Mars

ning skies. It is low in the southwest in the constellation of Sagittarius, the archer, where its brightness makes it easy to find. To the west, and lower, is another planet, Mars. The third planet now seen, Saturn, is in Pisces, the fishes, high in the southeast. It is the faintest of the three.

At about 10:00 p. m. on October 1, 9:00 p. m. on the 15th and 8:00 p. m. on the 31st, the skies appear as shown on the maps, and from these not only the planets, but the stars as well, may be located. A good place at which to start to learn these is with the figures of Pegasus, the winged horse, high in the south. In this constellation are shown four stars marked "great square." Actually, Alpheratz, in the upper left corner, is in the neighboring group of Andromeda, so here we have two already identified.

Fishes and a Horse

Follow the line of the two stars forming the right hand side of the square to the south, and you come to Fomalhaut, in Piscis Austrinus, the southern fish. Wrapped around the square, below, and to the left, is another figure made up of fishes, this time a pair, the constellation of Pisces. Between Piscis Austrinus and some of the stars of Pegasus, is Aquarius, the water carrier, while below Pisces is Cetus, the whale, making rather a strange assemblage of aquatic creatures. Nor are they all, for Capricornus, nearby, is a monster with the head and shoulders of a goat, and the tail of a fish, if we are to believe the way he is pictured on the old star maps, dating back to ancient times.

Next to Pegasus to the west is Cygnus, the swan, which forms a cross in the sky, the brilliant Deneb at the top. High in the southwest is Aquila, the eagle, with another first magnitude star called Altair. Near it, on either side, are two fainter stars, Alschain to the left and Tarazed to the right. A little higher than Aquila, and farther north, is Lyra, the lyre. This contains the brightest star now to be seen, Vega.

Mars and Jupiter

Some interesting motions of the planets Mars and Jupiter may be seen this month. Until the end of the month Mars will be to the west of Jupiter, but if you watch them night after night, you will find that they are steadily approaching. On October 9, at noon, eastern standard time, when they are visible, Mars will pass Jupiter. After that the positions will be reversed. The moon, almost at first quarter, passes Mars on the 11th and Jupiter on the 12th, so at these dates the objects, close together, will form a striking trio.

In addition to the planets of the evening sky, two others can be seen in the morning hours. During the first few days of the month Mercury will be visible low in the southeast just before sunrise. Venus is also a "morning star," rising about two hours before the sun, and more brilliant than any other planet or star.

The phases of the moon are given below. From about the 10th to the 22nd there will be moonlight in the evenings. The full moon on the 10th is the "Hunter's Moon." At this time the delay of moonrise from one night to the next is less than usual during the year, though not as little as it was for the "Harvest Moon," the full moon of September. The moon will be closest the earth (at perigee) on October 21 at 11:00 a. m., and at its greatest distance (apogee) at 1:00 p. m. on the 9th. On the former date it will be 224,580 miles

from us, as compared with 251,680 miles on the latter.

Phases of the Moon

		E. S. T.
New MoonOct	. 4	6:58 a. m.
First Quarter		10:47 a. m.
Full Moon	19	4:48 p.m.
Last Quarter	26	8:26 a. m.
Science News Letter,	Septen	iber 25, 1937

CONSERVATION

Seashore National Park To Preserve Beauty of Dunes

HUNDRED square miles of natural seashore land in the Cape Hatteras region of North Carolina will become the first Seashore National Park, if present plans are realized. As outlined in *Science*, (Sept. 10) these call for the acquisition of the land, its presentation to the U. S. National Park Service, and the preservation of the unique and still unspoiled natural plant and animal life of the region.

Approximately 7,540 acres are already in Government hands, including 1,400 acres comprising Cape Hatteras State Park, 44 acres surrounding Cape Hatteras Light, 96 acres at Kitty Hawk, and 6,000 acres controlled by the U. S. Biological Survey.

Besides its scenic and natural history value, the proposed park also has rich historical background, running all the way from Sir Walter Raleigh's unsuccessful colony of 350 years ago to the first successful airplane flight, made in 1903 at Kitty Hawk.

Science News Letter, September 25, 1937

Nature originally provided the cow with only enough milk to take care of a calf, says the Consumers' Guide; but today, as a result of selective breeding, many cows provide enough milk to take care of 10 calves.

