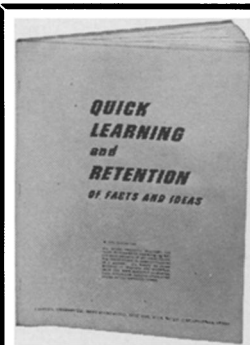


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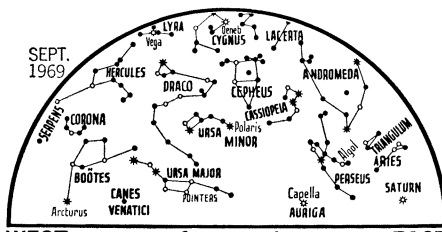
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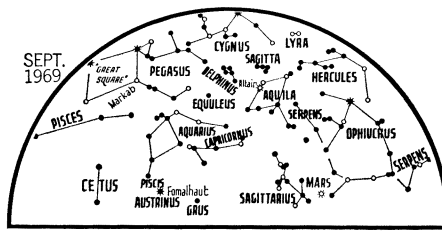
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☼ ☉ ● Symbols for stars in order of brightness

Saturn, Mars visible

by James Stokley

Although fading as it draws away from earth, the red planet Mars continues to be prominent in the September evening sky. It is in the constellation of Sagittarius and is visible in the southwest until it sets about four hours after sunset.

Saturn, the planet with the rings around it, is in Aries, low in the east. It rises about two and a half hours after sunset on the 1st and about 30 minutes later on the 30th.

The accompanying maps show both planets. The maps indicate the sky's appearance about 11:00 p.m., local daylight saving time, on Sept. 1, 10:00 p.m. on the 15th and 9:00 p.m. on the 30th.

Because Mars and Saturn are both low in the sky atmospheric absorption reduces their brightness.

Vega in Lyra is the brightest star. Eastward stands Cygnus where Deneb is the brightest star. Toward the south is Aquila with Altair.

Three more stars of the first magnitude are also visible; they too are

dimmed by low altitude. Capella in Auriga is near the northeastern horizon. Toward the south is Fomalhaut in Piscis Austrinus. And to the west northwest is Arcturus in Boötes.

Not all the prominent figures contain the brightest stars. For example, high in the southeast is Pegasus, with Markab the brightest star in the group but only a tenth as bright as Vega. Markab is in one corner of the Great Square of Pegasus. The star diagonally opposite is part of the next-door constellation of Andromeda. Just below is Pisces. Lower and farther right is Aquarius, above the square is Cygnus.

On the 11th the moon will be new. A few days later it will appear as a narrow crescent, low in the west at dusk. On the 18th it will be at first quarter, setting late in the evening. Full moon comes on the 25th when it will be visible all night.

There will be an eclipse of the sun on the 11th, and most of North America will see it as a partial eclipse. ◇

CELESTIAL TIMETABLE

Sept.	EDT	
1	3:00 a.m.	Moon passes north of Saturn
2	midnight	Mercury farthest east of sun
4	12:58 p.m.	Moon in last quarter
6	11:00 a.m.	Moon farthest, distance 251,700 miles
8	3:00 p.m.	Moon passes north of Venus
11	3:56 p.m.	New moon; annular eclipse of sun, visible as partial eclipse over most of North America
13	noon	Moon passes south of Jupiter
18	10:25 p.m.	Moon in first quarter
19	3:00 a.m.	Moon passes south of Mars
22	7:00 a.m.	Moon nearest, distance 227,800 miles
23	1:07 a.m.	Sun over equator, autumn commences in Northern Hemisphere
25	4:22 p.m.	Full moon (harvest moon); penumbral eclipse
28	11:00 a.m.	Moon passes north of Saturn
29	6:00 a.m.	Mercury between earth and sun