



◊ * ◦ • SYMBOLS FOR STARS IN ORDER OF BRIGHTNESS

side of the sun and then to the other. When toward the east, as now, it follows the sun across the sky in its daily motion, and remains visible after sunset.

On the other hand, when west of the sun, it rises ahead of that body and is then a morning star, seen in the east before sunrise.

The same is true of Mercury, but its orbit is within that of Venus, so it remains still closer to the sun. In fact, it can never get far enough away to be seen in a really dark sky, but appears in the east, at dawn, or in the west, at dusk.

On May 2 it will be at its farthest east position, called greatest eastern elongation, and for a few days before and after this will be seen in the evening sky.

Celestial Time Table for April

April EST		
3	3:06 a. m.	Moon in last quarter
	5:00 a. m.	Moon farthest, distance 251,000 miles
	11:56 p. m.	Moon passes Mars
10	9:39 p. m.	New moon
12	1:00 p. m.	Venus farthest east of sun
14	9:01 a. m.	Moon passes Venus
15	5:00 p. m.	Moon nearest, distance 229,300 miles
17	2:00 p. m.	Jupiter halts westerly movement and resumes eastward motion among the stars
	6:28 p. m.	Moon in first quarter

19	2:15 p. m.	Moon passes Jupiter
24	8:40 p. m.	Full moon
26	11:51 p. m.	Moon passes Saturn

Subtract one hour for CST, two hours for MST, and three for PST.

Science News Letter, March 24, 1956

GENERAL SCIENCE

Easter Lilies and Bunnies Are Easter Symbols

See Front Cover

► THE HAPPY YOUNGSTER shown on the cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is looking at the cuddly white rabbit he has received for Easter, along with the lily he will give his mother.

Both the lily and the bunny are a part of Easter today and both symbolically have roots deep in the early festivals held by the pagans about this time of the year.

Science News Letter, March 24, 1956

GENERAL SCIENCE

Population of Future Will Follow the Sun

► IN THE SEARCH for ways to trap the energy of sunlight to power our mechanical civilization, the world may again see some of the great population shifts that have occurred from time to time as mankind has settled one new area after another.

Although no doubt fortunes will be made in today's thickly populated temperate zones on inventions using the sun's priceless fuel, the present drive toward use of solar energy comes from fear of looming poverty.

Long before man appeared on this planet, the sun's energy was invested in growing a great quantity of plant life. The carbon compounds locked up in these plant structures accumulated to form treasure hoards in underground deposits of coal and oil.

Millions of years' accumulation of this treasure has been tapped to fuel our high-energy civilization, but in less than two centuries we have nearly used it up. Although it is true that some oil is forming daily, this drop-in-the-bucket rate is not going to save us from a change in our way of living.

With the ingenuity already developed by experience in building machines to use fossil fuels, and whetted by the recent applications of nuclear energy to producing useful power, mankind will probably solve the problems inherent in use of solar energy before our heritage of fossil fuel runs out.

As soon as sunshine-using devices become at all practical, the ancient semi-tropical river valleys where civilization first began will probably see a new spurt of immigration by gadget-minded people.

Science News Letter, March 24, 1956

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