

bodies, as well as a fourth, seemed to be revolving around Jupiter. They were satellites, going around Jupiter as the moon encircles the earth.

At that time it was widely believed that sun, moon and planets all revolved around the earth, as envisioned by the old Ptolemaic theory. But Galileo favored the newer theory that Copernicus had proposed in 1543. This had the earth one of the planets, orbiting around the sun. Jupiter, with its moons, provided a small model of this idea, and so helped to get it accepted.

Later Galileo found that Venus underwent a complete change in phase, like the moon, from a narrow crescent, to full, then back to a crescent. This could not happen in the Ptolemaic system, but it could according to Copernicus. He also discovered craters and mountains on the moon and spots on the sun. The Milky Way, he discovered, was made of a swarm of distant stars, each too faint to be seen by the naked eye, although the telescope revealed them.

Thus Galileo originated the modern era of observational astronomy with the aid of the telescope, which has given us so much information about the universe in which we live. No wonder that astronomers in February will look back for a moment to this great Italian, who was born 400 years ago.

Celestial Time Table for February

FEB.	EST	
5	7:43 a.m.	Moon in last quarter
6	3:00 p.m.	Moon farthest, distance 251,300 miles
13	2:20 a.m.	Algol (variable star in Perseus) at minimum brightness
	8:02 a.m.	New moon
15	1:00 a.m.	Saturn behind sun
	11:10 p.m.	Algol at minimum
16	8:00 a.m.	Moon passes Venus
	10:00 p.m.	Mars behind sun
17	4:00 a.m.	Moon passes Jupiter
18	8:00 p.m.	Algol at minimum
20	8:25 a.m.	Moon in first quarter
21	3:00 a.m.	Moon nearest, distance 230,000 miles
27	7:40 a.m.	Full moon
28	3:00 a.m.	Venus passes Jupiter

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

• Science News Letter, 85:58 Jan. 25, 1964

COMMUNICATIONS

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Pulsed laser light can carry enormous amounts of information such as television pictures or masses of scientific data from a space station. IBM will build a highly simplified system for early testing.

• Science News Letter, 85:59 Jan. 25, 1964

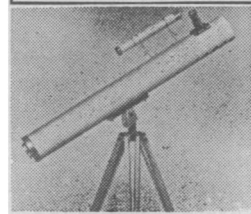
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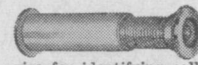
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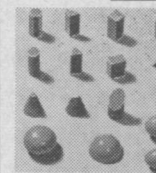
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