



The Witch Head nebula shines by scattering starlight off microscopic dust particles.

CARLOS ROTELLAR

Celebrating Halloween with the Witch Head Nebula

This month we celebrate Halloween and the Universe shares with us one of its spooky objects. The Witch Head Nebula is a reflection nebula located 1,000 light years away in the constellation, Eridanus (The River), near the bright blue super giant star, Rigel, in the Orion constellation. The nebula gets its nickname from its resemblance to the profile



Carlos Rotellar

first seen by William Herschel in 1786. Reflection nebulae, like the Witch Head, shine by

of a witch's head, with a hooked nose, chin, and wispy hair, as we can see on this image. It spans 50 light years across and it was first seen by William Herschel in 1786. Reflection nebulae, like the Witch Head, shine by

scattering starlight off microscopic dust particles. In this case, the blue light of Rigel is scattered by fine dust within the nebula. Blue light scatters more efficiently than red light, giving the nebula its characteristic bluish tint, which is similar to why Earth's sky appears blue. Rigel's diameter is about 70-80 times that of the Sun

and is 100,000 times brighter. If Rigel were to replace the Sun, it would stretch beyond the orbit of Mercury, and almost to Venus destroying the Earth in seconds! – Dr. Carlos Rotellar is a Bowling Green nephrologist who has had an interest in astrophotography and has been taking images of the universe from his driveway for several years. Website: Skyastrophotos.com.

The nice guy and the tomato picker

“Dear Sean ... This is not a criticism,” the email began, “just a simple question...” “Are you a member of a Bible-believing church community ... ? Do you tithe ... ? Do you worship with other believers and hold yourself accountable...? I’ve been a pastor for 28 years, I have helped many... And I’m here if you want to talk. There is only one way to heaven, friend.”



Sean Dietrich

Dear Friend, Once, there were two men. They were very different guys. They looked different. Had dissimilar backgrounds. They even smelled different. The first guy was nice. Raised right. Gave money to his church. Read his Bible all the way through every year—always the correct translation. He volunteered to clean the church toilets. He was a small business owner. No tattoos. Drove an American made car. Never cussed in public. The second guy was a tomato picker on a commercial farm. He was sweaty and stinky from work. His coworkers were mostly Mexicans and South Americans who all worked for cash under the table.

This was the only job he could find due to his prison record. Nobody wanted to hire a guy who had been busted for drugs. Twice. Still, he’d been sober for the last four years. Sobriety had been a tough road. His body still suffered the aftereffects of hardcore methamphetamine usage. He had jerky movements. Sometimes it was hard to sleep. To keep his mind occupied, so he wouldn’t focus on his physical afflictions, sometimes he smoked too many cigarettes. Sometimes he smoked a little weed to ease the tremors. One Sunday, these two men went to church. At closing prayer, everyone bowed their heads. If you could have heard the prayers going through people’s minds you would have heard very different sorts of talk. The first man’s prayer was simple: “God, I thank you for all you’ve given me, and you have given me SO MUCH to be

See **DIETRICH**, 3C

WAY BACK WHEN

Local quartet to perform at rally

On October 6, 1927, the Park City Daily News reported that local talent, including a quartet, would perform violin and piano music at a rally for Porter Sims, who was running for Warren County Judge. The performance was held on the lawns of Lawrence B. Finn

and Ed B. Stout, who lived next to each other on Park Street. “According to the report made today, Lem Howell has his fiddle bow well “rosined” and the fingers of his banjo players are in fine shape.” The rally was apparently successful. Potter Sims was

the Warren County Judge from 1928 to 1938. – “Way Back When in Warren County” is compiled by researchers at the Warren County Public Library and appears twice weekly in the Bowling Green Daily News. For more information about the library, visit warrenpl.org.



The picture of Judge Porter Sims above was provided by the WKU Kentucky Museum and Special Collections Library.

Scientists find ancient life-size animal rock carvings in Saudi Arabian desert

By **ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN**
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK — Researchers have discovered life-size rock carvings of camels, gazelles and other animals in the Saudi Arabian desert.

The carvings date back to around 12,000 years ago and many are over 6 feet (1.8 meters) tall. Scientists say they were created using a wedge-shaped rock to create sharp lines. Several were etched on narrow ledges so the artists couldn't even step back to survey the final product as they were

working. “To engrave that much detail with just a rock takes real skill,” said Maria Guagnin, an archaeologist with the Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology in Germany who was involved in the discovery. The animal carvings and engraving tools found

at the site show that people were living in the area about 2,000 years earlier than scientists thought. It isn't clear how they survived in such arid conditions — whether they lived off of shallow lakes that pooled for part of the year or drank water that accumulated in deep crevices.

People have been creating rock art in Saudi Arabia for thousands of years, Guagnin said. But older engravings can be tricky to date since they tend not to feature writing and there are few remnants such as charcoal, which can be sent to a lab for analysis. “We know relatively

little about art in the Middle East during this very ancient period of the human past,” Michael Harrower, a Johns Hopkins University archaeologist who wasn't involved in the research, said in an email. In the latest discovery, scientists found a rock

See **SCIENTISTS**, 3C