

Our universe — the wonder of it all

Turning 104 last month, renowned Gospel singer George Beverly Shea has already left many legacies in the music industry while still active in the business. Given many are lucky to make the 80th birthday mark, Shea is well past that just in his career alone. The Grammy Award winning, Canadian-born vocalist is well respected by even the contemporary hip hop entertainers of today for his impressive profession and dedication to his faith including his over 65 years with Dr. Billy Graham. One of his most popular songs called *The Wonder of It All* composed in 1955 has the following opening lines:

"There's the wonder of sunset at evening, The wonder as sunrise I see," and, "There's the wonder of springtime and harvest, The sky, the stars, the sun." The closing verse in one of them is, "But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul is the wonder that God loves me."

About 3,000 years ago, King David stood on top of Mount Moriah (where the



Neel Roberts
The Sky's the Limit

Doom of the Rock is today) and wrote Psalm 8 as he stared into the night sky. Most people don't know that the Psalms are actually the Jewish Hymn book and verses 3-4 spell out, "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?" Of course these two men have never met, but their words have a strong correlation. Both speak of an amorous creator who not only made the Heavens and Earth but also his love is greatest for its human inhabitants, namely you and me. C.S. Lewis, one of the greatest academics of the last century, renounced his atheism and evolutionistic beliefs after an honest,

intensive study of the Holy Scriptures. Known as the "apologist to the skeptics," he summarizes his transformation by concluding, "Conversion requires an alteration of the will, and an alteration which, in the last resort, does not occur without the intervention of the supernatural." This Easter celebration when you look up at the heavens, decide if what you behold is an accident or a well-planned, intentional creation!
Sky watch for the next month

Waxing moon pulls up Mercury: As you set your clock ahead at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 10, stay up until dawn and look in the east just before sunrise at about 6 a.m.

Jupiter near Waxing Moon and 7 Sisters: On Saturday, March 16, look half way up in the southwest from dusk until they disappear after midnight in the northwest.

Comet PanSTARRS graces the sky: From Sunday, March 10 to Sunday, March 24, look in the lower west range from dusk for a few hours. Experts predict it might reach naked

eye status but it's best seen with a pair of binos.

Spring Equinox: Warmer days officially start coming on Wednesday, March 20 at 4:02 a.m.

Public events for the next month

Check out our monthly **Public Stargazing** at the Vulcan Tourism and Trek Station courtesy of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (Calgary) starting at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 8. A brief indoor presentation on "Solar System Stuff; planets, comets and asteroids" will be followed by observing through our resident 11-inch telescope and the latest viewing aids courtesy of All Star Telescopes from Didsbury. All are welcome, there is no charge, and refreshments are provided. Come early as space fills up by show time. Experts on hand every second Friday of the month to explain the heavens, teach scoping skills and help you develop your knowledge of our sky. For further information, contact the Trek Station at 403-485-2994 or visit www.vulcantourism.com.