

116 Marquette Road
Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830

1 Nov. 1965

Dear Mrs. Yane:

Enclosed are Comet and Nova Search reports for July, August, September, and October. I'm sorry I didn't get the earlier ones to you in time for the annual report, but there wasn't much to report. We have had very poor visibility most of the summer, with nearly every night overcast. On many nights the overcast was thin, so that one or two stars were visible, but not enough stars that I could pick out my search areas. The last two weeks have been markedly different, with good atmospheric transparency and one clear night after another.

Have you all been able to see Comet Ikeya-Seki from Montreal? I got up and tried, in vain, from about 5:00 to 6:15 AM for four or five mornings before it reached the sun. I live in a valley that was completely fogged in on those mornings, so drove two or three miles to a high spot on the Ridge where I had a good view of the eastern horizon. It was really chilly, and I didn't have too good of an idea where to look, so swept the sky with my binoculars until dawn. Then on the days when it was nearest the sun we had a heavy overcast and rain. I had about given up, and rather had an idea that it was in the evening sky now--until I got my Sky and Telescope with the ephemeris. I plotted its position and set the alarm early for Thursday morning (the 28th), but slept through the alarm! On Friday morning I did get up about 5:20 and drove to my vantage point on the ridge. I picked up my binoculars off the car seat and stepped out of the car and glanced toward the east, and there--with a street light full in my face--I could see it sweeping up 15° or so. I hadn't been prepared for anything so bright or so grand in size. I jumped back in the car and hurried home to arouse the children. We could see it from our back yard--at least the upper part of it, but it was fading in the dawn so I didn't see much of it that morning. On Saturday morning we were travelling south of Louisville, Kentucky and my wife spotted it from the car. I pulled off the road and watched for a few minutes; it looked fully as bright as it had on Friday. On Sunday morning we were back home, and the sky was clear but hazy and I couldn't see it from my yard. I was too tired to drive up to the top of the Ridge (having driven all night Friday and most of Saturday). This morning was sparkling clear and I again observed for a few minutes--but was still tired and went back to bed. The president of our local club just called and said that if I had stayed up I could have seen the head--I haven't seen it yet, just the tail. The tail fades out near Delta Crateris.

Sincerely yours,

Justin Long