

Rt. 3 Box 367H
Matthews, NC 28105
December 17, 1965

Dear Miss Williamson,

I read with regret that your members missed the great Comet Ikeya-Seki which so recently passed us and created a phenomenal display in the eastern skies. Therefore, I am enclosing a photograph of the Comet taken on Nov 4th which was one of several made. It will show the clarity which we here in North Carolina enjoyed of this appearance.

The photo does not do the Comet justice, however. Also enclosed is one of my negatives of the Comet that was made the same morning as the photograph altho an earlier view. The photo was made as a contact print on F-3 Kodak enlarging paper; consequently the detail of black & white is not as great as it should be.

The view is looking slightly South East. It is tilted because the camera was resting on top of a 2" refractor on a semi-equatorial mount, hastily

assembled the night before. The polar angle here is about 35° and the mount was about 45° or better.

Newspaper reports gave the comet as "a searchlight in the eastern skies that one sees early in the early dawn belongs to the latest comet visible, Comet-Ikya-Seki - etc"

And that is a fitting description, as it did appear to be a searchlight beam early in the morning sky.

I am completing my telescope base (concrete was poured last Saturday) and both telescopes are progressing fine. Will have some photos to send you of this when complete.

Sincerely,

W. O. Jenkins

P.S. The only clouds we experienced in the AM were as the photo shows; otherwise, all views were exceptionally clear!

W.O.J.