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Sunday Oct 29th '67.

Dear Jim.

I think I join the company of "inexperienced" amateurs who have raised false hopes. I am 95% positive I have a "ghost" in my telescope and it is a stray reflection from a slight scratch on my diagonal and it is probably from the very bright star Capella. I am going to try & duplicate the effect using Vega or some other bright star.

The following night was very cloudy but in the few minutes that a gap showed ^(FRI) at 11¹⁵ pm M.S.T. I eventually located the "comet" again - much closer to Capella.

Last night, Saturday was very clear and it should have moved again - in fact I have another position, but also I do know that I have a spurious star image as well. As Capella is moved out of the

field farther & farther the "ghost"
moves also - & then becomes extinct -
it is at this point the hazy spot
appears - I think it is the last ray of
light from the "ghost" & I see it with
averted vision. Any way for the
record Jim - here are the 3 co-ordinates
the next couple of nights will prove if
my "comet" exists as will move far
enough away from Capella to be
free of the bright glare.

My discovery coordinate of RA 5 Hrs 13
+ 46° 15' is slightly in error and I have
corrected them to read
Oct 27 0345 hrs U.T. RA. 5 hours 12' 45"
+ 46° 4'

Second Sighting (?)

Oct 28 0615 UT RA 5 hours 13' 15"
+ 46° 0'

This indicates a motion of 30" East 4' South
Projecting this and trying last night
at 0400-hrs Oct 29th U.T. the object should
be even closer to Capella, but I am dubious
of my observation.

The co-ordinate is RA 5 hours 13' 45"
+ 45° 56'
This is within 2' of arc from Capella.

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I have had a new diagonal due from
Cave Optical for some time now. They
"corrected" my mirror and re-aluminized
it & promised a matching diagonal
which they omitted to send - hence my
using one in poor condition and I think
causing this false alarm.

Anyway Jim I will write again
later this week & forward my negative
reports on Nova & Comets & my estimates
of Nova Alcock.

I will check with other members
but to date little if any C & N. search
has been conscientiously done I'm afraid
despite my encouragement & regular
star nights we have had all this year.

Till later

I remain

Yours truly

John Howell