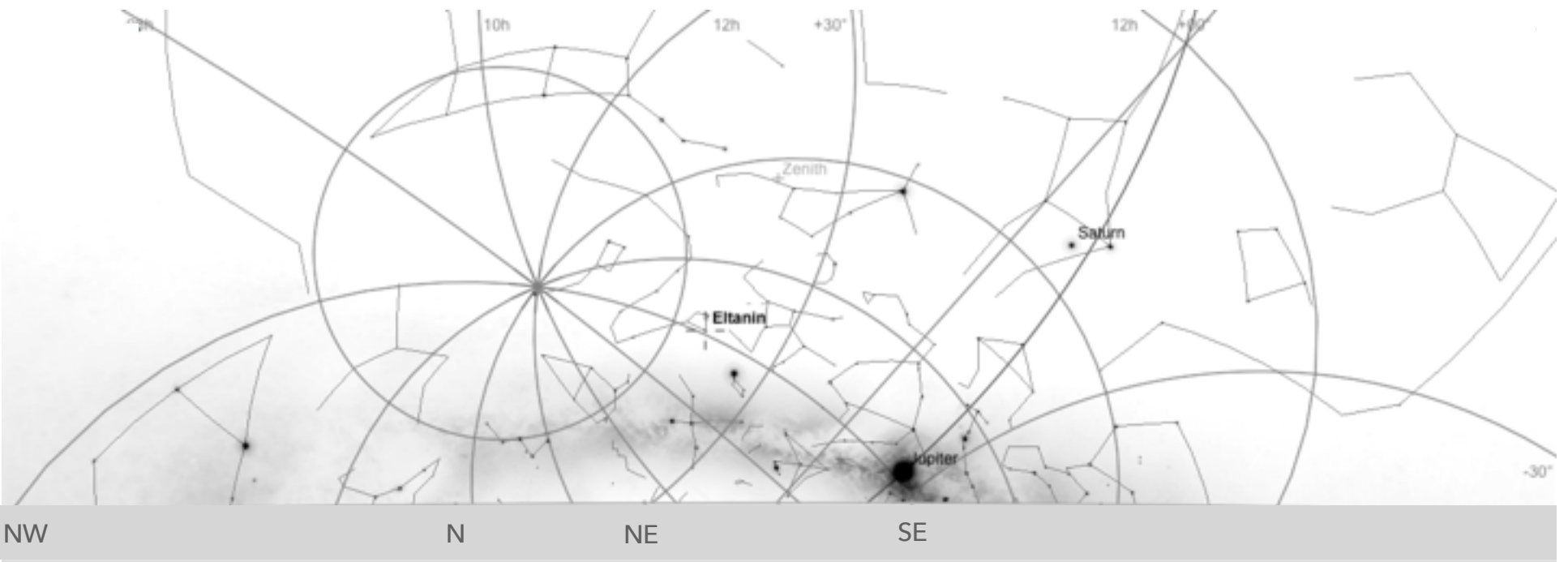


FIRST MIDNIGHT SOUTH BEND, 1865



South Bend's First Midnight on May 22, 1865, facing east.

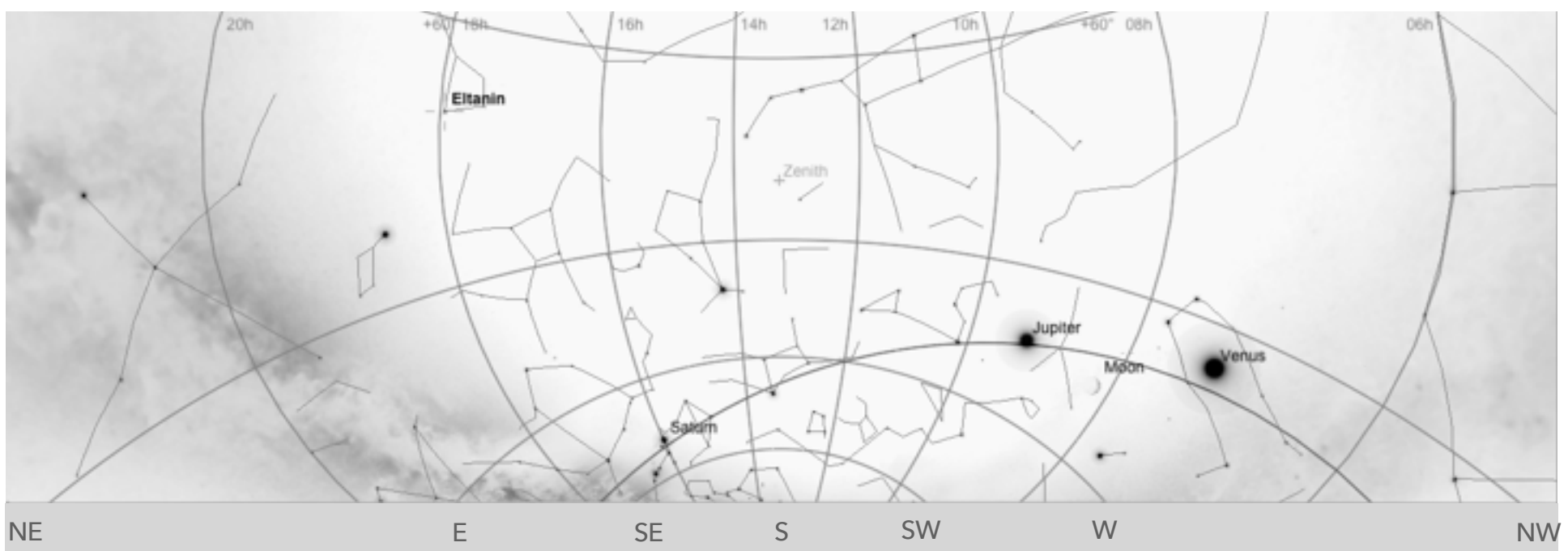
Panorama of 1865 night sky shows constellations and the visible planets Jupiter and Saturn. Lines of right ascension (celestial longitude) converge at Polaris, the North Star. The sky was certainly dark, with no visible moon that night.

Highlighted is the star Eltanin in the head of Draco the Dragon. Starlight that left Eltanin about 150 years ago, traveling at 186,000 miles *per second*, is just now reaching South Bend!

As South Bend celebrates its 150th anniversary, this star chart of the 1865 sky is painted on the crosswalk at Washington and Michigan Streets. For more First Midnight details and local astronomy events, see www.nightwise.org.

Fun Facts

- ▶ Eltanin has been dubbed *Queen of the Poles*, for it will be the north pole star in the year 92020, and the south pole star in the year 2083470.
- ▶ Eltanin is 600 times brighter than the sun, and 50 times the sun's diameter.
- ▶ Eltanin means "the serpent" in Arabic.
- ▶ Eltanin is moving toward us, and will make a close pass at a distance of 28 light years 1.5 million years from now, when it may be the brightest star in the sky.



South Bend Midnight May 22, 2015, facing south.

After 150 orbits of earth around the sun, the constellations appear the same as they did in 1865. Near midnight on May 22, 2015, the planets Saturn, Jupiter, and Venus are visible along with a crescent moon.

To keep the stars visible in South Bend's future, please prevent light pollution. Dark-sky tips at www.nightwise.org. Observe the night sky with members of the Michiana Astronomical Society at www.michiana-astro.org.

