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Errors and omissions:

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Just out of interest, I tried another time and another place. The Lowrys visited Mexico. They went to Acapulco, Cuernavaca, Oaxaca, and Mexico City. They were there in January. In Mexico (I used a generic 18°N, 99°W, Time Zone +5), on January 10, 1947—an arbitrary moonless date in winter—the sun set at about seven in the evening.

All the stars Lowry mentions were clearly visible by eight o'clock. Capella, 38 degrees high NE; Fomalhaut, 27 degrees high SW (low in the south is right); Algol, 61 degrees high NNE; and Mira 70 degrees high SSE. The order of brightness is also exactly as Lowry gives them: Capella (+0.1), Fomalhaut (+1.2), Algol (+2.1), and Mira (+3.0).¹

The moral? Everyone needs a good editor, especially one who can do arithmetic!

What Mr. Lowry should have written—let's assume no moon—is:

In the sky some stars came out. Vega, Capella, in the northeast, low over the dark silhouette of the island, then Altair and Deneb. ..."

But then again, *October Ferry*...was a work of fiction. ◇

More Gabriola ammonite fossils—by Nick Doe

A perfectly-preserved ammonite from Gabriola remains elusive, but here are some recent failed candidates. Top and bottom, *Pachydiscus suciaenis*? middle, *Gaudryceras denmanense*? Not shown is *Nostrorceras hornbyense*? ◇

¹ The more positive the magnitude, the dimmer the star; not the other way round. Bright stars have a magnitude of +1.5 or less, but stars with magnitudes down to +4 are easy to see with the naked eye even with some city (or Harmac) light pollution.

