

Torpedo Meteor' Apparently New Up Near Mt. St. Helens

The "torpedo meteor" which appeared over Oregon and Washington in the early morning hours of Jan. 6, 1948, apparently blew up at a point about 10 miles southwest of Mt. St. Helens, according to reports from the U.S. Coast Guard, astronomer for the Pacific Coast region. He has checked reports of more than 25 celestial fireballs since 1932, three of them in the past six weeks.

Poor visibility due to heavy clouds over the Northwest apparently reduced the number of actual eyewitnesses to the Dec. 19 spectacle, Pruet reported. However, the 13 reports which were transmitted to him by witnesses gave sufficiently comprehensive data to permit a reasonably accurate determination of the meteor's course and its appearance. Pruet said the reports he received of this meteor coincided more decisively than usual, and the observations were made from wide-spread locations.

One of the first reports of the flaming orange-blue object in descent over the Cascade mountains came from Richard Burdick of Springfield, a Greyhound bus driver. Burdick said the meteor appeared to be moving almost due north, and he described it as being torpedo-shaped. Confirming this, Pruet said, a report from R. P. Effinger at The Dalles included reference to certain stars to fix the exact line of sight for the disappearance of the fireball.

Pruett said Effinger and other witnesses reported that haze and clouds obscured their view of the actual meteor, but they were able to follow its course by the brilliant manner in which it illuminated the skies.

The point where the meteor first became visible in its descent through the earth's atmosphere was not accurately fixed by the various witnesses, Pruet reported. This was probably due, he said, to the weather conditions.

At present, Pruet is receiving reports of another meteor which was seen over southern Oregon and northern California after the "torpedo" was seen. He expects to have sufficient information on hand to permit plotting of this meteor's course in a week or so.

Sale of Christmas Seals Reported Good

Returns from the sale of Christmas seals in the McKenzie Valley District have been extremely good so far this year, according to Mrs. Thomas Powers, district chairman for Lane County Public Health Assn.

She said over \$275 had been turned in before Jan. 1, and that it was hoped that others who received seals would make their returns this month. The money from the annual seal sale is the only source of income for the association, and is used to support a year-round health education program and the annual visit of the mobile chest x-ray unit to the county.

AT DEERHORN

DEERHORN—At a special evening meeting of the McKenzie River Home Extension Unit, Dr. Paul Millar of the Citizenship Foundation will be the speaker. In addition to all the members of the Deerhorn, McKenzie, Thurston and Blue River Units, all the residents of the valley are welcome to attend. Mrs. Leland D. Shrode of the Deerhorn group will be in group singing.

Cake, pie and coffee will be served by the McKenzie River unit to raise funds for the Azalea house at Corvallis. Remember the place for the joint meeting is Vida Hall and the time is Thursday, Jan. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

At the January business and social meeting of the Deerhorn Parent-Teacher Association, Mrs. Donald Kraal and Mrs. Ernest Watson have arranged a program to follow the business session. Refreshments will be served as usual. The contest between the two rooms for attendance of parents is being continued throughout the winter. So far the attendance is tied, the primaries winning once, the upper grades once and the two rooms tied once. The time is 8 p.m., the date Jan. 9, and the place, the Deerhorn schoolhouse.

A light vote at the annual budget will now be submitted to the Lane County Rural School Board of five members who will scrutinize it and approve it or return it for reconsideration. Carl Baker of Vida represents the McKenzie valley schools on the county board.

The pussy willows are popping out and the little "spring beauties" or "blue bells" as they are often called, have been found. Mrs. Everett Miller was pleasantly surprised Saturday evening when a group of friends gathered at her home, invited by Mr. Miller to celebrate her birthday anniversary. During the evening, several wire recordings were made by Eldon Pinell, University student and musician. Several recordings made before by members of the group were part of the entertainment.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Wearin have returned from several days' visit with relatives in Portland. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mecum entertained all the members of the canteen at their home Saturday evening, honoring the birthday anniversary of their son, Jack Mecum.

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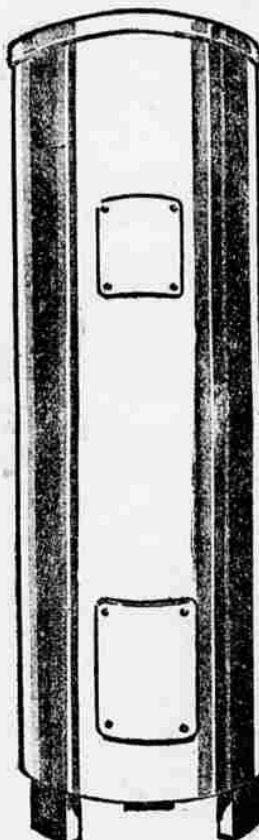
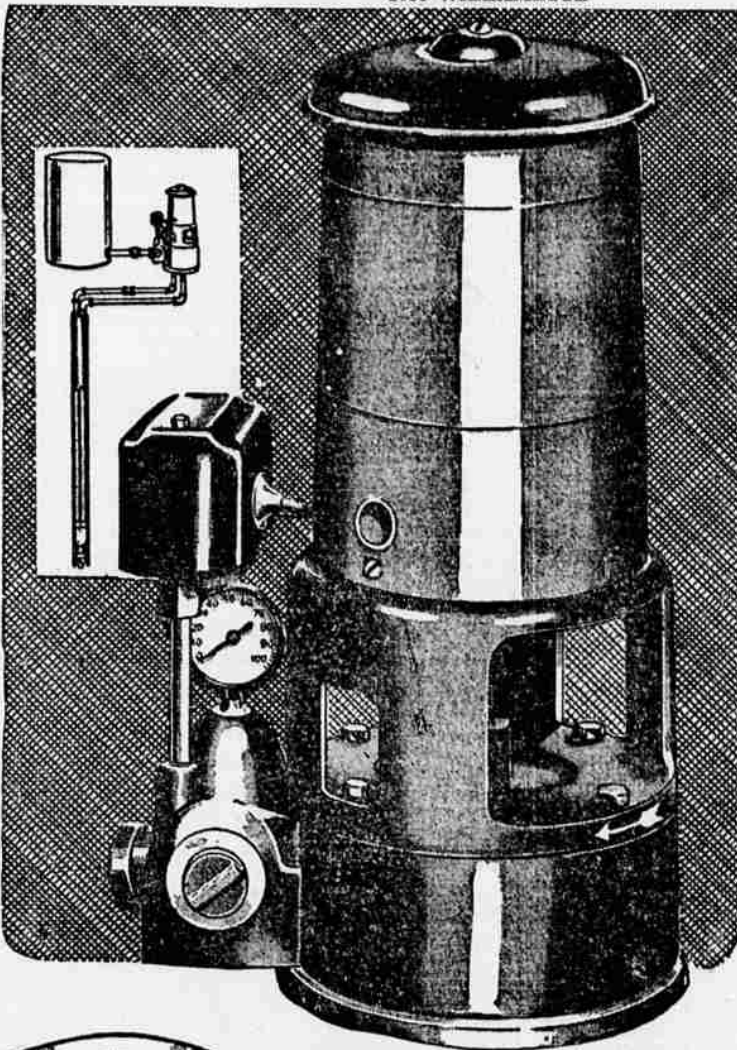
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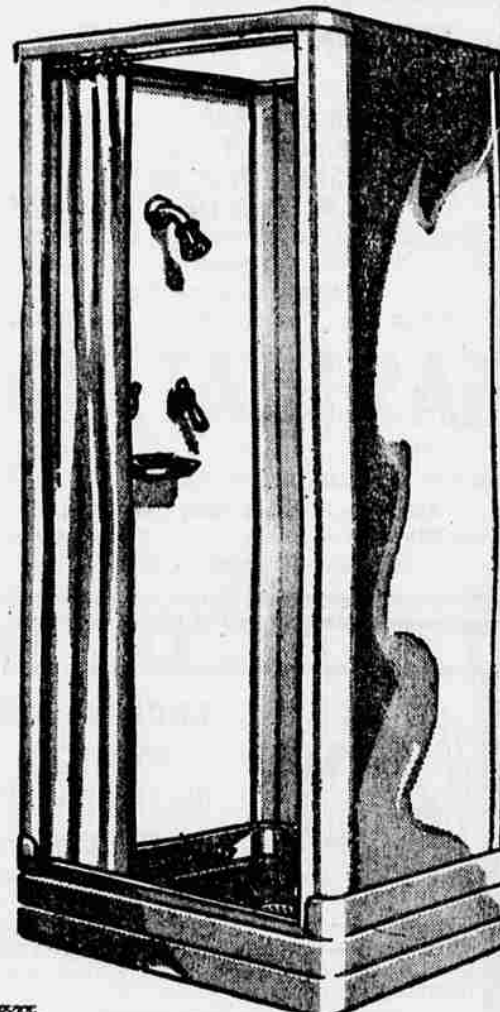
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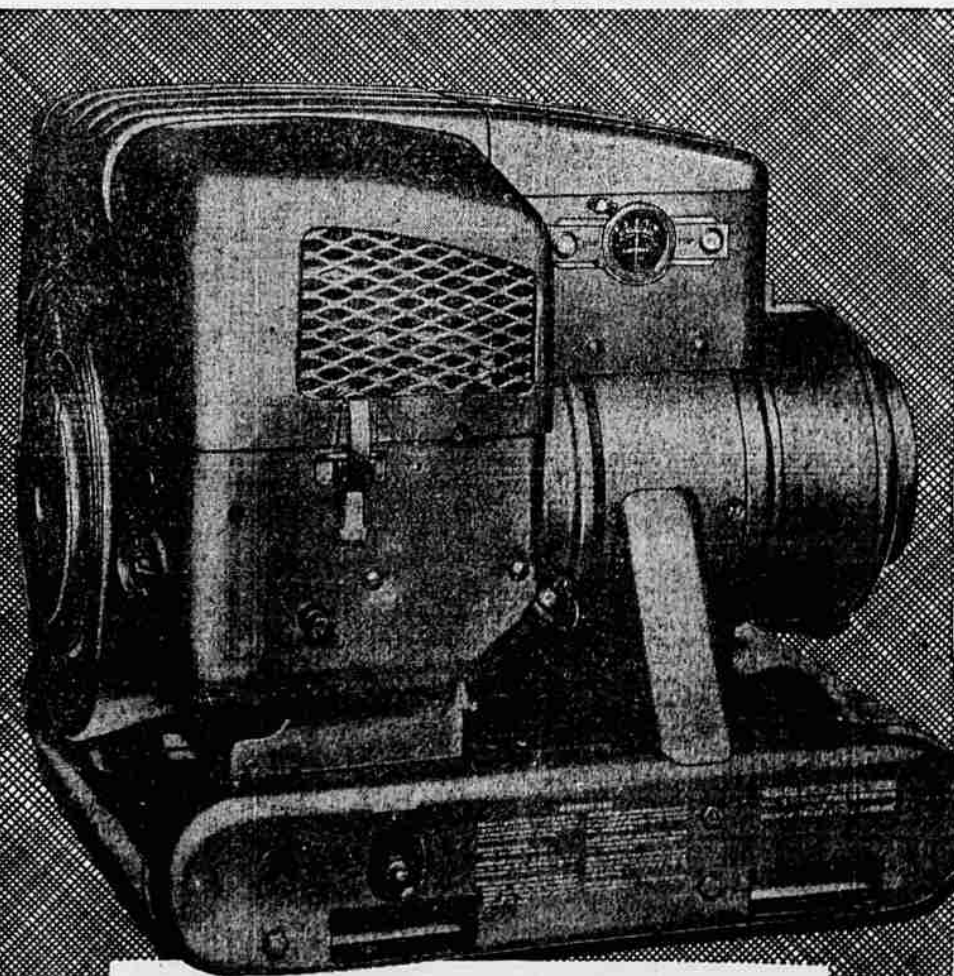
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