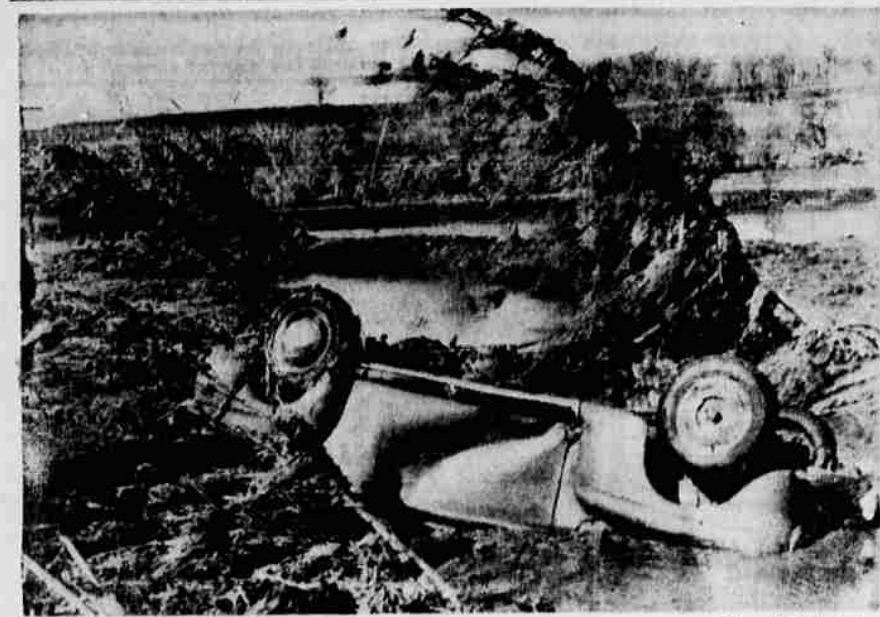




16 BELIEVED DEAD IN NEBRASKA FLOOD—Auto lies overturned in muddy ditch near Dunbar, Neb., after a flash flood swept southeastern Nebraska, leaving 16 persons dead or missing. Two young occupants of the car were swept from the arms of their parents and drowned as the surprise flood bore down on them. The flood followed a rainfall which totaled as much as 7 1/2 inches in many areas.

## Worlds in Collision

By J. Hugh Pruett  
Astronomer, Extension Division,  
Oregon Higher Education System

"Worlds in Collision" by Immanuel Velikovsky, M.D. is now read for sale. I have read "previews" of the book in nine national magazines. Five assume the Russian physician has made a notable discovery: Sky and Telescope, Time and Science Digest and Pacific Discovery are quite critical.

The tremendous advance publicity this book has received is amazing. It claims to furnish the "connecting link" between science and religion. The general thesis is that around 1500 B.C. the time of the exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt, and again 52 years later, an enormous comet, blown out of Jupiter and a million times more massive than any other ever known, encountered the earth and completely stopped its axial rotation for a while. It caused the parting of the Red Sea, the "columns of fire and smoke," the bloody rivers, the life-sustaining manna and Joshua's stationary sun. After tangling with Mars, the comet finally lost its tail and its ferocity and settled down to become the peaceful planet Venus.

Accounts Corroborated  
Dr. Velikovsky says that ancient accounts from various na-

tions corroborate fully the terrific abuse old Mother Earth suffered from this hideous comet and its lashing tail. Dr. Harlow Shapley, who says he speaks for his fellow astronomers, calls the theory "rubbish and nonsense." The personal views of this present writer—and many are not original with him—are these:

Dr. Velikovsky claims to be "self-taught" in the physical sciences, but shows a decided lack of understanding of many simple laws of mechanics—as do some of his favorable reviewers. A planet-size comet could stop the earth's rotation only by striking it a terrific jolt. Our world and everything on it would be wrecked. What is left of a speeding automobile or its passengers if it encounters something mighty enough to halt it suddenly? And nothing but another wrecking collision could start the world's rotation again. Does a spinning top that is completely stopped by grasping it, start whirling again when released?

Ancient Records  
There are ancient records of observations of Venus hundreds of years before 1500 B.C. One writer says Dr. Velikovsky employs the method of "making a statement of alleged fact, then looking around for things to prove it." Another says he "depends mostly upon the myths of various nations" and knows little about oriental imagination and poetry.

It seems very likely that early peoples would report many local catastrophes as "world-wide." There is surely an abundance of most unreasonable accounts in the dawn records of every nation. Is there a single nation entirely free from this defect? We cannot accept every mythological statement of the ancients as scientific certainty. Even today many natural phenomena, imperfectly understood and poorly reported, give entirely wrong impressions. A meteor smoke-trail twisted into coils by the upper winds becomes for some an ominous serpent in the heavens. Barely a few months ago came the misleading foreign broadcast that the sun stood still for Stalin's birth.

## Firemen Wash Gas From City Streets

After washing down two places on Central avenue where gasoline spilled from autos during the weekend, city firemen yesterday warned motorists of the hazard created by gasoline on the streets, particularly during warm dry weather.

They cautioned motorists against filling car tanks too full. Firemen were called to Central avenue at the J. C. Penney store yesterday and to Franklin's cafe Friday evening to wash off the street. They were sent to 1406 Saling avenue yesterday morning when a flue fire was reported.

Dead line on Classified Ads: 5:30 p.m. for following day; 10 a.m. Monday noon Saturday for Sunday a.m.

## Prospect

Prospect, May 13 — Prospect high school gymnasium will be the scene of a benefit smoker for the Community club, May 18 at 8 p. m. Admission will be by donation only. Eugene Burrill is in charge of the activities and has given a lot of time to the planning. Fans will be entertained by bouts for all ages. Lloyd Rupp of Central Point is to be master of ceremonies and referee. He will bring several special matches from Medford and Central Point. Altogether there will be about 20 bouts. Hot dogs and pop will be sold at the smoker to raise additional money. All people in the Prospect area are urged to attend the smoker for a night of enjoyment and to help this worthy club.

Honor students of the Prospect high school graduating class have recently been announced. Patricia Brown received the title of valedictorian and JoAnn Rienks salutatorian. Both will be speakers at the commencement exercises May 26. Pat plans to enter the teaching profession and expects to attend S.O.C. next fall. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Brown of Shady Cove. JoAnn is the wife of Jack Rienks of Prospect.

Mrs. Ray Roberts was guest of honor at a surprise birthday party given by her husband May 6. The party was held in the Community hall. Refreshments were served and gifts opened at the party.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Turner of Rogue River were guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Christianson over the weekend.

Mrs. George Prauss returned home Sunday from the hospital with her infant daughter. John Bak who had been working in Jacksonville has returned home and is now employed by Everett Skeeters.

Mrs. Dale Hammor visited her two sons, George and Eddie Prauss, over the weekend. Mrs. Roy Swift is visiting in Los Angeles for two weeks. She drove Mrs. Johnson there on a business trip.

Senior class of 1950 held their Spring Festival in the high school gymnasium Friday night, May 12. This was the only formal dance of the year. Gibson's orchestra furnished music. Punch and pastry were served.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Harrison and son Kenney, visited Mr. and Mrs. Joe Josephson over the weekend. They now reside in Myrtle Creek.

Mrs. Harlan Levetzow returned home May 11 from Sacred Heart Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Hal Garden went to southern California to attend the funeral of Mrs. Garden's brother.

Fred Smith left Tuesday for California on a business trip. He was expected to return Saturday morning.

Harold Setzer, son of Lester C. Setzer, received a compound fracture to his right arm Thursday evening. He is under the care of Dr. Bishop of Medford.

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