

Maim Street

by Ralph Stein



Star Gazing Disbelieved

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

Related questions propounded to me recently by four persons, unrelated and unknown to each other, are discussed here.

1. A pleasant young salesman after learning that my specialty was astronomy asked with evident sincerity and pit, "Do you really believe that astronomers can foretell the future by the stars?" My answer was, "No."

He said he thought that was the business of astronomers. 2. An educated young woman, who wished to offend no one in the organization before which she was to present a scientific paper, asked this: "Can you advise me how to handle the situation diplomatically should anyone present assume that I consider astronomy and astrology identical?"

Comfort Derived I advised a simple statement of the belief of astronomers. There are many people today who sincerely trust in astrology and seemingly derive comfort from it. The large sale of astrological magazines is proof

plenty. To make a wholesale attack on these "believers" is as offensive as is the denunciation of any religious faith. Heated arguments seem unwise. Everyone has a right to his personal belief.

One point, however, should be understood by all. Many suppose that astrologers and astronomers work harmoniously together. They do not. But without classing either group as mislead, we can confidently state—without fear of contradiction from anyone who will investigate—that today no professional astronomer who is teaching in a standard college, working in a large observatory or employed by the government believes in astrology. Maybe all these star-gazing scientists are mistaken, but if so they certainly are unanimous in their error.

Nothing to Moon Lore 3. A correspondent asks, "Do the phases of the moon have anything to do with crops and the weather?"

Again let me sidestep my personal views by stating that college professors of agriculture, weather bureau officials and the lowly astronomer are practically unanimous in their opinion that there is nothing to moon lore or moon signs. They believe that beans planted at the "wrong" time of the moon in May have a far better chance of success than when planted at the "proper" moon phase in January. The new moon always has the same tilt (wet or dry) any certain month year after year.

4. Another writes, "Will you recommend a good magazine on astronomy—no astrology—which is interesting and informative?"

Among the better-known magazines of America, I can highly recommend Popular Astronomy, Astrophysical Journal, Astronomical Journal, Sky and Telescope, Griffith Observer, Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, and Publications of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

Some of these are more suited for popular reading than others. A statement of your desired type of reading together with an addressed postal for reply sent to this present writer at Eugene, Ore., will bring advice on the magazine suited to your needs.

LEGAL NOTICES

CALL FOR SEALED BIDS
School District No. 91 asking for sealed bids for painting the Grade School and High School Gymnasium. No bids to be opened on buildings. Specifications may be seen at the office of clerk in Butte Falls, Oregon. The school board reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Bids will be opened at the high school at 8 p.m. June 26th, 1950.
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Juvenile Advisors to Consider New Officer

Selection of a successor to Juvenile Officer John Richard will be considered Monday when Circuit Judge H. K. Hanna's advisory committee meets at the courthouse at 8 p.m. The committee will also fill vacancies on the executive committee and adopt a constitution and by-laws.

Richard will leave here July 1 to accept a position with Catholic Charities in Portland. Until a successor is named, Deputy Probation Officer Helen Busenbark will be in charge of the county's juvenile work.

Terms of executive committee-men and women Ray Harrison, Mrs. Dunbar Carpenter, Mrs. Marjorie Barnes, Maj. Jack Little, Mrs. Edward Kelly and Ben Schmidt expire at this meeting. Harrison is chairman.

The meeting is open to the public and representatives of civic, patriotic and religious organizations are particularly urged to attend. Judge Hanna said.

News of 4-H CLUBS

Roxy Ann 4-H Club
Roxy Ann 4-H Garden club met at Roxy Ann Grange hall June 9. Earle Jossy from the extension office showed the children how to test for nitrogen

and phosphorous in their soil. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Whittecher.

Wilson Moeller, Reporter.

Dead line for Sunday Classified is at Noon Saturdays.

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