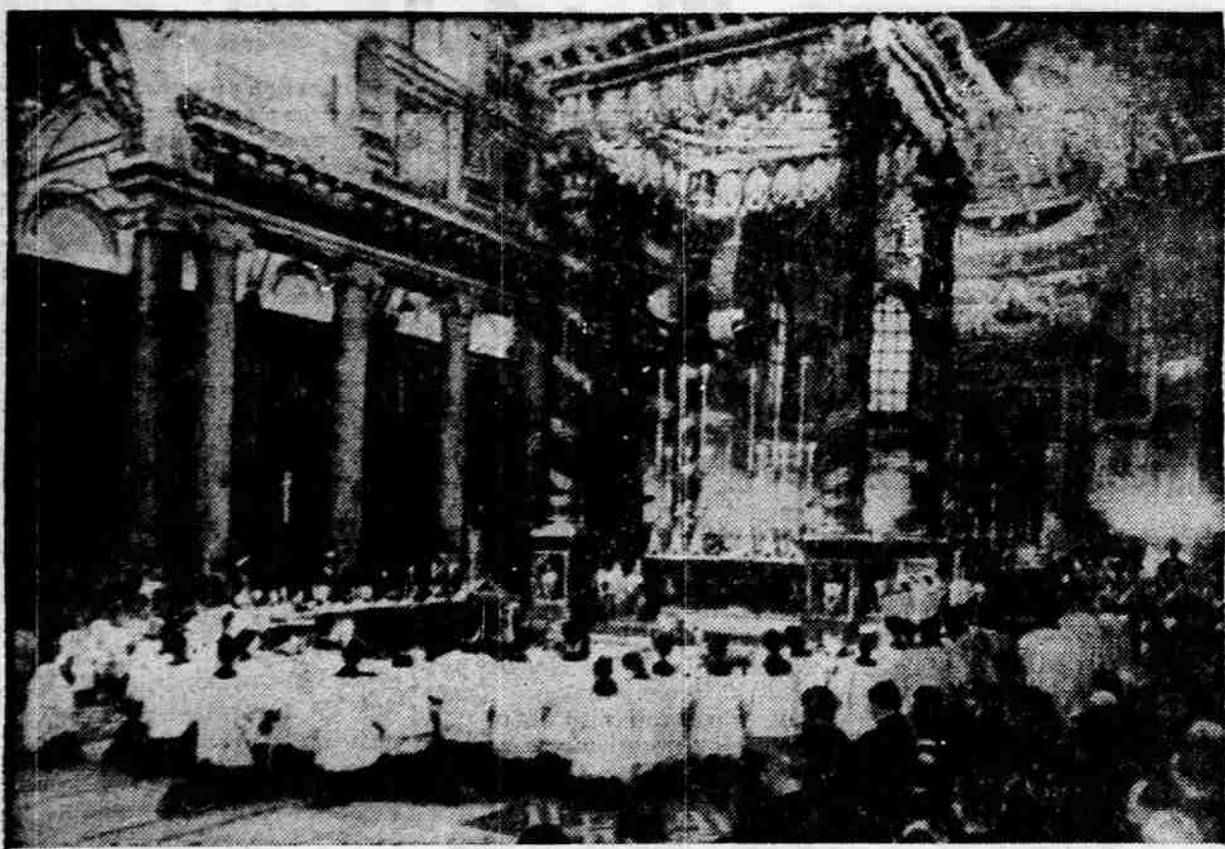




CLOSING CEREMONIES—Above is a general view of the inside of the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome during ceremonies closing the Marian Year, which was inaugurated a year ago by Pope Pius XII in this church. The ailing 78-year-old pontiff wound up the year of dedication to the Virgin Mary with a broadcast beamed around the world, expressing "gratefulness to God."

The Southern Cross

By J. HUGH PRUETT

Astronomer, Extension Division
Oregon Higher Education System

At times we in northern latitudes hear the expression "under the Southern Cross," or we see references to a sky figure by that name. All such sound poetical—but very far away since this group of stars can be seen from nowhere in our country excepting in southern Florida and Texas, and then only indistinctly. The Southern Cross is the envy of northern star-gazers.

In Dante's Divine Comedy we find a reference to this constellation: "I turned and fixed my mind on the other pole attentive where I saw four stars never seen before save by the ken of our first parents. Heaven of their rays seemed joyous: Oh thou northern site! Bereft indeed and widowed since of these deprived!"

Composed of Four Stars

The Southern Cross, a stellar figure small enough to fit easily inside the bowl of our well-known Big Dipper, is composed of four stars, three of them quite bright. When seen due south the cross stands almost upright. Alpha, at the foot, is the brightest and about a standard first magnitude white star. Beta and Delta, at the ends of the cross arm, are also white and of magnitudes 1.5 and 3.1. (The higher the magnitude number, the dimmer the star.) The relative faintness of Delta at the right of the cross arm is the only detractor from the glory of this celebrated

asterism. Gamma, magnitude 1.6, is a splendid, reddish orange jewel, blazing from the top of the cross.

To add to the charm of the Southern Cross, the entire figure is enmeshed in a dense part of the Milky Way, that pathway in the heavens paved with countless stars so distant that they cannot be seen individually excepting with optical aid.

Always Seen in Uruguay

We sometimes read of the anticipation of seeing the Southern Cross by those taking their first voyage into the southern seas. But the traveler cannot expect to see this figure in the early evening skies at all times of the year unless he goes as far south as Uruguay. There the Southern Cross—like our Big Dipper here—is always above the horizon. But anyway in southern latitudes, and even farther north, it is highest and due south at 9 p.m. during the

Sunday, December 12, 1954

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—THREE

FIRE CONTROLLED

Portland — (U.P.) — A three-alarm fire was reported at 11:17 a.m. Saturday at the Northwest Copper Co. here. Firemen said the blaze was under control at 12:04 p.m. There was no immediate damage estimate.

middle of May.

At the equator this starry cross is always above the horizon for 12 hours daily so will be somewhere in the visible sky at this 9 p.m. hour from February to August. Plan your trip to South American during this time.

Mrs. Isabel Lewis thinks reports of dissatisfaction with the Southern Cross come mostly from those who have seen it from no farther south than Mexico or Cuba, where it is greatly dimmed by the haze along the horizon. Her view from the highlands of Ecuador on a clear moonless night—with a meteor shooting across the sky—fulfilled her fondest expectations.

Medford Couple's Son Earns Promotion

Dale Throckmorton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Throckmorton, 407 North Holly st., has been appointed regional manager for Dodge automobile sales for the Dallas, Tex., region, it was reported last week. He has been regional business manager for the firm in the Omaha region since 1953.

His new sales region includes all of Texas except the panhandle.

A native of Medford, he was graduated in 1939 from Eagle Point High school. He is married and the couple has three children.

COMPLETES VISIT

Corvallis—(U.P.)—Arni G. Eylands, undersecretary of agriculture for Iceland, completed an eight-day visit to Oregon State college and to farms in the Willamette valley Friday. Eylands is on a nationwide tour sponsored by the State Department.

Dead line for Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday.

Around Hollywood

By ALINE MOSBY
United Press Correspondent

Hollywood—(U.P.)—Movie magnate Howard Hughes, who once startled the world with a wooden flying boat, is as excited today over his newest project—an underwater movie premiere.

RKO is staging the first, and probably the last, film opening beneath the waves when they show a Jane Russell opus, "Underwater," 12 feet deep at Silver Springs, Fla., Jan. 10.

A studio spokesman revealed today that Hughes is personally supervising this excursion with

as much enthusiasm as when he tried to launch his plywood air machine. "He likes anything that is a spectacle," one RKO worker said.

Plans to Dunk Audience

Hughes' plans for dunking 170 film players and New York and Hollywood columnists include the first underwater movie screen, which will be planted on the lake floor. A machine in the depths of a nearby boat will project the picture through a window onto the 8x16 foot plastic screen.

Underwater speakers will be placed nearby. The audience, wearing bathing suits and oxygen tanks, will sit on cement benches.

Studio publicists insist the Florida water is "crystal clear so you can see the film perfectly." Any press members who don't wish to get wet can watch the film through the windows of six submarines.

Next week invitations will go out to the press with requests for bathing suit sizes and a warning, "start practicing deep breathing."

Hughes' staff is trying to found up waterproof typewriters and plastic "paper" so an underwater press room can be set up. Ballpoint pens, naturally, will be passed around for underwater writing.

Revives Tradition

Hughes' stunt revives a tradition for the weird and wonderful film premieres that was a part of razzle-dazzle land in the old days. Once Hughes paid \$50,000 to light the Hollywood Hills with gigantic letters spelling out "Hell's Angels" for the opening of that film. The late showman Sid Grauman installed an entire zoo in front of his Chinese Theater for the premiere of "Trader Horn."

Once I attended a premiere of a cartoon aboard a Los Angeles streetcar as it clanged about town. Other pictures have been premiered on airplanes and trains, in prisons and wineries. Warner showed "The Sea Wolf" aboard a destroyer but the sea was so rough that nobody saw the picture and rail space was at a premium.

Medford Chosen For Marine Exhibit

Medford is one of 51 Pacific coast cities which a traveling agent of the U. S. Marine Corps will visit on its current tour. The tractor-trailer, specially designed and constructed by the Marine Corps to give the public a view of Leatherneck equipment and armament, will be on display here Tuesday, Dec. 14. The exhibit will be stationed at Main st. and Central ave., and is open to the public without charge.

On display are models of planes used by Marines, the battle streamers of the three active divisions, medals and decorations won by Marines, including the Medal of Honor, and a presentation of the new theory of vertical envelopment of an enemy-held beachhead by helicopter.

The trailer is staffed by four non-commissioned officers of the Marine Corps who will explain equipment and answer any questions.

Medford Officers Get Training Course

Five Medford city police officers, two of whom joined the force just last week, attended the Oregon police officers basic training school Dec. 6-10 at Grants Pass, Chief Charles Champlin reported.

They were Frank L. Lengele, DeLaire F. Tusow, Lee D. Rice, Frederick L. Griffith and Milton L. Hanson. The classes were for officers who had not been to an official school before. New appointees to the department are Griffith, 21, and Hanson, 24. Chief Champlin said both are local men. They will be assigned to patrol duties.

The school covered general law enforcement. Subjects included laws of arrest, mechanics of arrest, report writing, traffic law enforcement, accident investigation and crime scene investigation. A written examination concluded the school. Instructors included city and state policemen and FBI men.

PLAN SCHOOL DANCE

Jacksonville — Senior class members of Jacksonville High school will hold a dance on New Year's eve. It will be at the Community hall and the public is invited. Bill Lively's band will provide the music. Dancing will be from 9 p. m. to 1 a. m. There will be favors for all persons attending. Proceeds will go to the class.

Air Force Reservists May Lose Commissions

Commissions of Air Force reserve officers not active in some phase of the air reserve program by Jan. 1, 1955, may be revoked, according to information received by the 2644th Air Reserve center at Vancouver barracks, Vancouver, Wash.

Each reservist must earn 15 points a year under the program to meet minimum requirements. These points, additional to the 15 received by all reservists, may be achieved through training with an Air Reserve unit or through enrollment in a correspondence course.

Jacksonville Council Agrees to Water Fee

Jacksonville — The Jacksonville city council agreed last week to charge \$165 for each water connection outside the city limits.

An extra charge will also be made for installation of any pipeline over the usual distance to the residence, according to Recorder B. J. Christianson.

The council also approved beginning of the annual audit by Leland Knox, Medford.

Court Records

CIRCUIT COURT

Della Irene Thompson vs. Kenneth Oliver Thompson, complaint in suit for separate maintenance (previously listed incorrectly as divorce complaint.)



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