

Astronomy Questions

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Here are some questions which frequently have come to me. Their answers will likely be of interest to many others.

1. What is the very bright object in the eastern sky early in the evening and the still brighter one in the southeast in the dawn?

These have been discussed frequently, but for those who missed the articles we can state that the evening object is the planet Jupiter, and the one in the morning sky is the planet Venus, the most brilliant of all planets or stars.

2. What eclipse will be visible during 1955?

I'm sorry to give such a discouraging answer, but this year will be very uneventful for us in regard to eclipses. Not one will be visible in any of the states where this article will be published. There is a total solar eclipse on June 20, but this can be seen only from the vicinity of Southern Asia. On Dec. 14 an annular (not annual), or ring, eclipse of the sun will occur in about the same region. Nov. 29 there will be a partial lunar eclipse, but the moon will set here before the event.

Some may ask, "What is an annular solar eclipse?" Such would be a total eclipse were the moon much closer to the earth on the date of occurrence. It would then hide the entire face of the sun. But at times during a month old Luna is 30,000 miles farther from us than at others. It then looks somewhat smaller and will not quite cover the face of the sun. All is blacked out with the exception of a narrow ring of brilliant light around the outer rim of the sun. "Annular" means "ring."

3. We are told that sunspots are most numerous every 11.2 years and that at such times magnetic disturbances and the aurora borealis, or northern

lights, are most frequent. Where are we now in the sunspot cycle? The last maximum of solar spottedness seems to have occurred in May 1947. The time between maxima is not always 11.2 years, but if this average applies this time, the next should take place in 1958. Since the fall from maximum to minimum is generally slower than the rise from minimum to maximum, we are likely now about at a minimum. Some days the past few months not a single spot could be seen by telescopic means. At about the times of maximum many spots are always visible on the solar face.

4. When will brilliant Venus again grace the evening twilight?

Not until next autumn. Venus will be a "morning star" until Sept. 1 when it will pass behind the sun and get into the evening twilight. But it will be a few weeks later before it can be easily seen. It will be a nice Christmas star next December.

Two Found Dead in Gas Filled Motel

Salem — (U.P.) — Two Portland men were found dead in a gas-filled motel cabin in North Salem Friday, and the coroner's office indicated accidental death by asphyxiation.

The two men identified as Demzel Weston, 28, and Burford E. Conway, 49. Authorities said they apparently had been dead more than 24 hours when found by E. B. Gabriel, operator of the Cherry City cottages. Gabriel told officers the two had registered at the motel Wednesday and said they planned to go to the Silverton area Thursday to cut wood. Their car was still there Friday so Gabriel investigated and found the cottage filled with gas from two open burners on a stove.

Tags Needed on Trees Shipped to Michigan

Salem — (U.P.) — Oregon nurserymen can no longer ship native plants or trees to Michigan unless the materials bear an extra tag available through the State Department of Agriculture at Lansing, Mich., the Oregon State Department of Agriculture said today.

This is a special tag to label shipments of native stock as such. Cost of the tags is nominal, 25 cents per 100.

The information was received this week by Frank McKennon, plant division chief of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The Michigan "native plant" tag is in addition to usual nursery permits.

Four Southern Oregon Men Enlist

Four southern Oregon men last week enlisted in the Army, according to Sfc. Warren M. Long, Army recruiting station commander.

They are: Paul Raymond Emery, son of Cecil F. Emery, 513 Beatty st., enlisted for the ordnance corps.

James Leonard Paris, of Claremore, Okla., enlisted while visiting at the home of relatives here, and will join the engineer corps.

Frank Dennis Mooring, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Mooring, Jacksonville, enlisted under the specific school program, and after eight weeks of basic training at Ft. Ord, Calif., will enter the engineer equipment maintenance school at Ft. Belvoir, Va. He is a graduate of Jacksonville High school.

Charles Herman Mitchell, son of Everett A. Mitchell, Williams, a prior service man who re-enlisted for the 2nd Infantry division, Ft. Lewis, Wash., with the rating of corporal.

Chapman Planning Oregon Voter Sale

Portland — (U.P.) — The "gradual" sale of the Oregon Voter, pocket sized weekly publication, to Walter W. R. May was announced Saturday by the publisher, C. C. Chapman.

Chapman said that both he and May would act as publishers jointly for a while, but that May ultimately would take over complete ownership.

The 40-year-old publication was established by Chapman when he came to Portland from Chicago in 1915.

May is expected to take over the management of the publication April 30. He was former publisher of the Oregon City Enterprise - Courier.

Small Craft Have Plan Disapproved

Portland — (U.P.) — Construction of a small craft haven at Des Moines Harbor, Wash., was disapproved Saturday by the U. S. Corps of Engineers here.

The recommendation for disapproval was forwarded to the Senate Committee on Public Works in Washington, D. C. Col. L. H. Foote, division engineer, said the open coastline in the vicinity of Des Moines would require costly breakwater construction which would not be justified economically.

He said also the improvements would require a large local contribution and that promoters in the area had indicated it could not be raised.



MAY COME HOME SOON—Mrs. Edwin Clark, wife of Sgt. Edwin Clark of the Air Force and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Daily, 830 East Ninth St., is shown above in a chest respirator, in which she is allowed to spend part of her time. Mrs. Clark, a Medford girl who was stricken with infantile paralysis in Bangor, Me., on Labor Day of last year, must spend the remainder of her time in a huge iron lung. Her husband, shown with her in the photo, said he has been told by doctors that his wife soon may return to her home in Medford but it will be necessary for her to live, for the time being, in the "lung." She is now confined in a hospital in Oakland, Calif. The Jackson county chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis has informed Clark that when his wife returns to Medford the chapter will provide an iron lung, chest respirator, rocking bed, nursing service and other aids which might be required. The money will come from March of Dime funds.

Bills in Legislature

Salem — (U.P.) — The Oregon state forester has asked that the state forest patrol assessment fund be allowed to keep that percentage of its revenue that now has to be turned over to the general fund every year.

In a bill introduced by the House Committee on Forestry and Mining at request of the forester, the law would be amended to eliminate the requirement that a certain percentage of the assessment fund be put in the general fund of state money.

Salem — (U.P.) — A Portland representative, Fred Meeks, has introduced a bill in the House to make public transit companies eligible for a state gasoline tax refund. City bus lines have long sought the refund to help them solve their financial problems.

Meeks also introduced a bill to extend the regulations for trolley buses in a city to an area in a three-mile radius beyond the city.

Salem — (U.P.) — A bill has been introduced in the House to permit firemen to use a blue lamp and certain insignia on their private cars for use when they are on emergency duty.

Salem — (U.P.) — The Oregon Senate paid tribute to two of its members named first citizens in their communities by giving

Five-Year Development of Oregon State Parks Slated

Portland — (U.P.) — The tentative approval of a five year development plan for Oregon state parks was announced Saturday by the Oregon State Highway Commission.

The plan calls for the expenditure of \$3,100,000 for the development of parks and another \$3,000,000 for their operation during the next five years.

To Purchase 720 Acres
The commission said also it planned to purchase an additional 720 acres to take care of increased use.

Spokesmen for the commission said the current budget was considerably higher than those of past years, but was needed because of increased use of the recreational spots.

Increase Predicted
The action followed a prediction from the State Parks Division that more than 8,000,000 persons would utilize Oregon's parks by 1960 and that attendance would hit 10,000,000 by 1965.

Most expansion of the park system is planned near the more populated areas of the state. The five year plan calls for the expansion of 72 park areas; development of 12 unimproved parks and the construction of four new areas.

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Jungle Missions Film To Be Shown Tonight

The motion picture, "Jungle Indians", produced by the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, will be presented at 7 p. m. taken at the Bethel Baptist church, 11 Newtown street. The picture was filmed in Peru in sound and is a documentary of missionary effort in that area of South America.

Shown are sequences of the practices of head binding, the bird islands, the life of missionaries and natives in the jungle, and the use of aircraft in modern missionary work.

Dr. Louis T. Talbot narrates the story. The public is invited. No admission will be charged, but a free-will offering will be taken for use in the interests of missions.

TV Used To Scan Bottom of River At The Dalles Dam

The Dalles — (U.P.) — There are some workers on the government payroll here who are getting paid to do nothing but watch television.

The programming however is not the usual run of horse opera.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is using television cameras to inspect the bottom of the Columbia river in the enclosure area of The Dalles dam.

Lt. Col. David S. Parker said it was the first time a television circuit has been used to map the general relief of the river bed by the Portland district.

The watertight camera used here is the same one used last month at Grand Coulee to examine erosion damage at the base of that project's spillway.

At Grand Coulee however, a diver was used to move the camera around. Here the camera is manipulated by gear on a barge.

Body of Tillamook Drowning Victim Found

Tillamook — (U.P.) — The body of Dallas Jay Smith, 51, of Tillamook, was recovered from the Wilson river nine miles east of here Friday by a local fisherman.

Smith, and two unidentified passengers, were tossed into the Wilson river when their skiff capsized Wednesday, the Coast Guard reported. The two passengers managed to swim to shore.

Temporary Cut Set In Welfare Checks

Portland — (U.P.) — Persons on welfare rolls in Multnomah county will be getting short checks the next two months.

The State Public Welfare Commission so ordered the county commission in an attempt to make up a \$198,000 deficit in their bank balance. The order will affect about 3,000 persons. The action will cost each recipient about \$22 a month.

Chamber Men Reach Peru; To Go to Chile

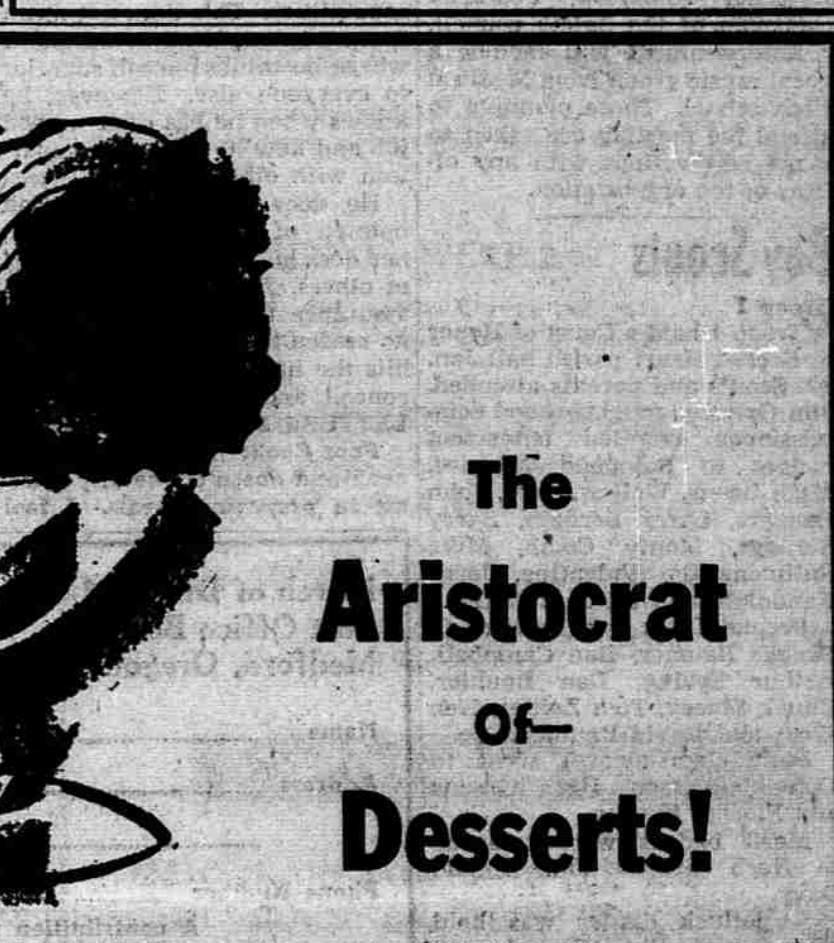
Lima, Peru — (U.P.) — Eighteen members of the Portland, Ore., Chamber of Commerce arrived Saturday on a tour of Latin-American nations to study commercial relations and possibilities of investments.

The group will remain here until next Wednesday and then go on to Santiago, Chile.

Seals Reported Moving North Off Oregon Coast

Astoria — (U.P.) — A Coast Guard cutter crew stationed here has reported one of the earliest northward movement of seals seen in many years.

The animals migrate north annually to the Pribilof Islands for mating. The crew reported sighting a herd with up to 300 animals recently.

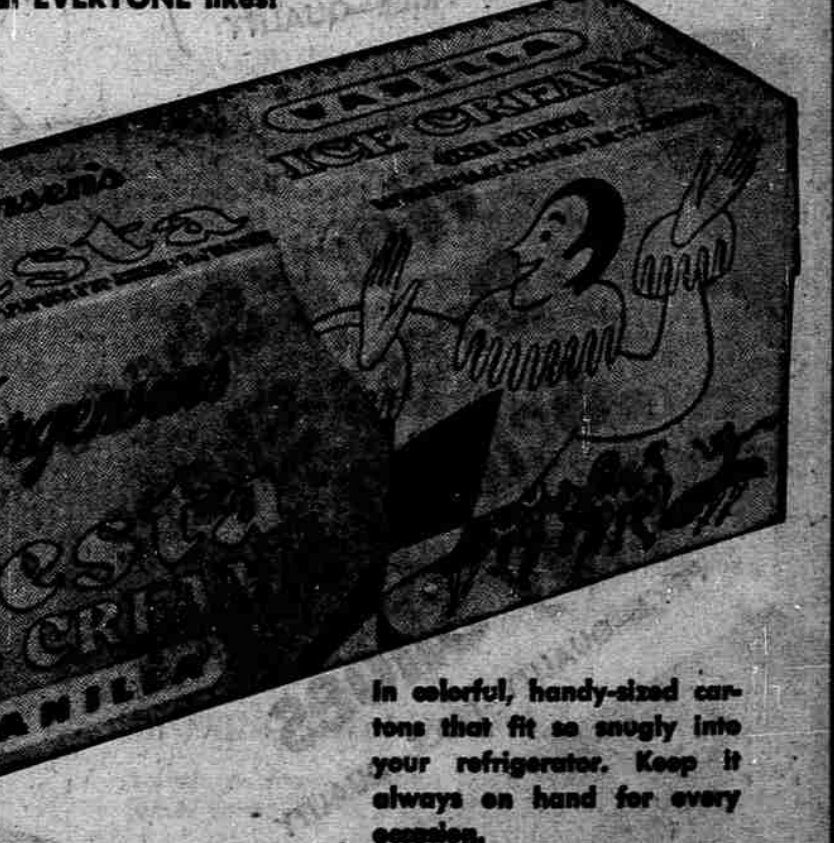


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