

Star, Planet, Meteor

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"Are the stars in the Great Dipper just stars or planets? Please distinguish between planets and stars. All planets are stars, are they not, but not all planets are stars. Why, through the ages, has not one of the seven stars in the Great Dipper fallen or burned out? We see stars falling and wonder if one in the Dipper will ever fall." (H.H.S. Portland)
Aside from the sun, moon, and an occasional comet, the other celestial objects look alike

to the naked eye excepting for brightness. So we are accustomed to call them stars. The flecks of light that at times dash across the sky and disappear in a second or so look just like stars so are commonly called "falling stars."
Three Distinct Classes
These objects which are called stars really belong in three distinct classes. Some are relatively close to us; others at great distances; still others are inconceivably remote.
The nearest are the so-called "falling stars." They are not stars at all. They are meteors.

They are debris which comes from spaces outside the region of the earth and become luminous only as they dash through our upper atmosphere — sometimes at over 40 miles per second—and become heated by friction with our air. They are small particles of matter and while visible are descending from about 80 miles above the earth's surface to 40 or 50 miles where they are entirely burned. Big ones sometimes reach the surface before being consumed.
Other Worlds
Planets are other worlds of our own solar system. Only five are visible without optical aid. They encircle the sun as does our earth. Some are nearer the

sun than we are but most of them are farther away. They are not luminous due to being intensely hot, but only because the central sun shines on them and lights them. They are stars only in appearance. The most distant known is Pluto, nearly four billion miles from the sun.
The real stars are extremely distant suns, the nearest being about 7,000 times farther from our sun than is Pluto. They shine because they are extremely hot. Our sun is the closest star to us. Very delicate instruments are needed to detect motions of the distant stars among themselves, even as seen in a human lifetime. They never shoot across the sky as do the

nearby meteors. Terrific velocity would be needed for us to detect it readily.
"Shooting stars" are not real stars on a rampage. They are only phenomena of a relatively nearby upper atmosphere. Don't worry that some night a star or two will tumble out of the Great Dipper. All of them are real stars, not planets nor meteors.
Construction in Washington of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, which will be the second largest church in the United States, will require 250,000 cubic feet of stone, 170,000 bags of cement and 25,000,000 bricks.

Sunday, February 13, 1955

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE

Motorcycle Mishap Injures Navy Man

Jackie W. Allen, 21, of 801 North Central ave., was reported in "satisfactory" condition yesterday afternoon, following a motorcycle accident on Consolidated Freightways property, according to hospital attendants and city police.
Allen, who is in the U.S. Navy and returned home on leave Friday, was apparently practicing riding a motorcycle when he struck a low concrete retaining wall in the truck yard, police said.

Officers said they believed Allen suffered a fractured shoulder and possible head injury, although complete information wasn't available until x-rays could be analyzed.
The youth was taken to Community hospital by Medford Ambulance service.
Almost 90 per cent of the prescriptions written by doctors today could not have been filled as recently as 20 years ago because the drugs they called for did not exist then.



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- 3** Judges decision will be final.
- 4** If you win a "MOBILE MAID" and already have one you can use the full price — \$229.95 — toward the purchase of any appliance or television in our store.
- 5** All entries must be mailed and post-marked on or before midnight TUESDAY, MARCH 15th. No entries will be opened until final judging takes place.
- 6** All entries become the property of Home Appliance Company.
- 7** One winner only.

Contest Ends March 15