

Vega, in Constellation of Lyra of Orpheus, Visible

By FAY VAN SCHOIACK

"Hitch your wagon to a star,"

is good advice, oft-repeated. But regardless of our choice in the matter, we are, in a sense, "hitched" to a brilliant blue-white star. The entire solar system—sun, planets, moons, planets, meteors, and comets—is traveling toward a distant sun at the rate of 12 miles per second or nearly 400,000,000 miles per year.

We are whirling through space in the general direction of a mighty sun, Vega, 50 times brighter than our Old Sol and with a diameter two and one-half times as great.

Pole Star

Thousands of years ago, Vega was our Pole Star and in the year 14,000 A.D. will again hold that position. Only a little more than 12 thousand years until we have a different North Star! Why do we have a change in pole stars? The earth rotates on its axis with a peculiar wobbling motion causing its poles to travel in a circular path called the circle of precession, which is completed once in approximately 26,000 years.

As the North Pole points to different parts of the sky while traveling on this path, and the star directly above the North Pole will be our pole star, there

will be a periodic change in pole stars.

No Pole Star

Thuban, a small star in the tail of Draco the dragon, was the pole star about 3,000 B.C. when the Egyptian Pyramids were being built. Polaris, the present North Star, is not exactly in line with the North Pole, but is near enough for all practical purposes. Vega, as mentioned before, will be the pole star again in about 12 thousand years. There will also be times when the northern hemisphere will have no pole star.

Vega is the only bright star in the constellation Lyra the Harp, or the Lyre of Orpheus, and is also the brightest star in the summer heavens. By 9:30 p.m. (PST), June 10, it will be about half way up in the sky, slightly north of east.

Four dim stars just below the brilliant Vega form a small four-sided figure resembling a parallelogram, while one dim star almost beside Vega on the left makes a small triangle of the top of the parallelogram. This star group is called Lyra the Harp.

Lyre Presented

Apollo, the Greek god of music, presented to Orpheus a harp or lyre, upon which he played such wonderful music that the birds hushed their songs to listen, waterfalls ceased splashing and even the rocks gave attention to its magic. Orpheus loved and won in marriage a beautiful girl named Eurydice, who stepped on a serpent and died from its poisonous bite. The grief-stricken Orpheus finally decided to visit the Underworld and ask Pluto to allow Eurydice to return to life. Using his music as a charm, he succeeded in passing the terrible three-headed dog, Cerberus, and gaining an audience with the ruler of the Underworld.

"Eurydice may follow you back to life on one condition. You must not look back until you reach the sunlight of the outer world," said Pluto.

Looked Back

Orpheus promised. But alas! Just a few steps from the outer portal he looked back to be sure his wife was following him, and Eurydice was instantly taken back to death, again. Unable to forget his sadness, Orpheus wandered about the world until the followers of Bacchus threw stones at him and by screaming loudly enough to subdue the music of his harp succeeded in killing him.

In pity, the muses buried his torn body, but his soul went to join his beloved young wife. The gods then placed the lyre in the sky as a symbol of his wonderful music and great love for the beautiful Eurydice!

QUEEN IN STOCKHOLM

Stockholm — (AP) — Sweden greeted Queen Elizabeth II with a wide open welcome and an air tight guard Friday.

The tight guard against Cypriot assassins in the British Isles extended to Sweden. In-

formed sources said police had investigated some 13,000 foreigners here before the Queen arrived.

The weight of the human brain increases by about 300 per cent during the first year of life.

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Pool To Open Monday; Classes Scheduled

The Hawthorne park swimming pool will open at 1 p.m. Monday, according to Darell Huson, city treasurer. The pool will be open from 1-9 p.m., he said.

Swimming classes will start

Monday, June 18, and continue through June 29. Minimum age for the classes is eight. Registration for swimming classes starts Wednesday, June 13, at Hawthorne park.

The playground supervisor will be on duty every afternoon and evening beginning Monday and will be in charge of the playground and wading pool. The wading pool is free to children up to eight years old, Huson said.

A story hour will be held daily in the afternoon for small children, he said.

Norsemen crossed to Britain, Iceland, Greenland, and the shores of North America without compass or chart, astrolabe or sextant. They steered by sun and stars, sniffing the winds, following currents and color of empty waters.

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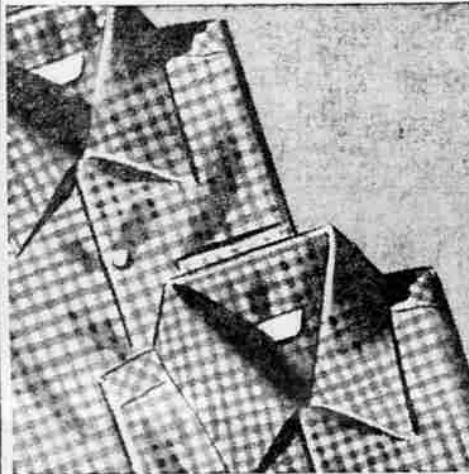


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