

### Controversy Still Develops Over Famous Eastern Star

By FAY BENTLEY  
Down through the ages the "Star of the East" has had a tremendous appeal to multitudes of people.

Though mentioned only a few times as the Christmas story is so beautifully related in the second chapter of the Gospel, according to St. Matthew, this star has aroused an interest unequalled by any other celestial phenomenon since the beginning of time and its explanation is the subject of a still unsettled controversy.

"Where is he that is born King of the Jews for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him..." the Wise Men said.

**Herod Sem Star**  
Even Herod, the King, was deeply interested and summoning the Wise Men, "inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared."

After the Wise Men left Jerusalem for Bethlehem, "the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

Three schools of thought have developed. The skeptics claim the story of the star to be purely imaginary; an outgrowth of vivid imagination, coupled with religious zeal. Even so, it gives them food for thought.

To believers in miracles, the star is a supernatural origin and is beyond any type of scientific description. It is for them a confirmation of Old Testament prophecies.

But for those who try to interpret the "Star in the East" in the light of modern scientific knowledge it presents a bewildering challenge.

**Natural Event**  
"Surely it must be some natural event," they reason. The puzzling question is, "What?"

It has been suggested that the planet, Venus, was the star the Wise Men saw. While we all recognize the brilliance and beauty of this planet, to the Magi, well versed in the movements of celestial bodies, this would be nothing unusual.

What about meteors and comets? Meteors may be dismissed from thought at once. The swift passage of a fireball would never inspire such words as, "It came and stood over where the young child was."

Comet was Omen  
Ancient people regarded a comet as an omen of some outstanding event, either for good or evil. In the year 4 B.C., a comet bright enough to be seen

in the daytime, and which remained in the sky for 70 days was observed by the Chinese.

The exact date of Christ's birth is unknown, but some authorities believe that contemporary New Testament events seem to indicate the year 4 B.C. or even as early as 11 B.C.

Some think it possible that the Wise Men's star was a nova or supernova. These stars, usually invisible, flare to brilliancy in a few days.

Ordinarily the novae are only seen through a telescope, but several times in a hundred years, one will become bright enough to change the appearance of the star group in which it is located.

**Gigantic Outburst**  
A gigantic outburst results in a supernova. In 1572 a supernova in Cassiopeia could be seen in the daytime.

Most novae remain at peak brilliancy only a few hours before beginning to fade. With occasional flare-ups they gradually return to their original obscurity.

However, the poorly kept astronomical records of that time show no occurrence of either nova or supernova near the date of Christ's birth.

But no matter how high the skeptics may raise their eyebrows, or how convincing the arguments of scientists may appear, the light that shone so briefly almost two thousand years ago still holds fascination for vast multitudes of people. And the mystery and beauty of the Star of Bethlehem remain unchanged.

### 1,531 Visit Museum During November

Jacksonville—Guests from 28 states and a missionary from Sidon, Lebanon, were among the 1,531 visitors at the Jacksonville museum during November.

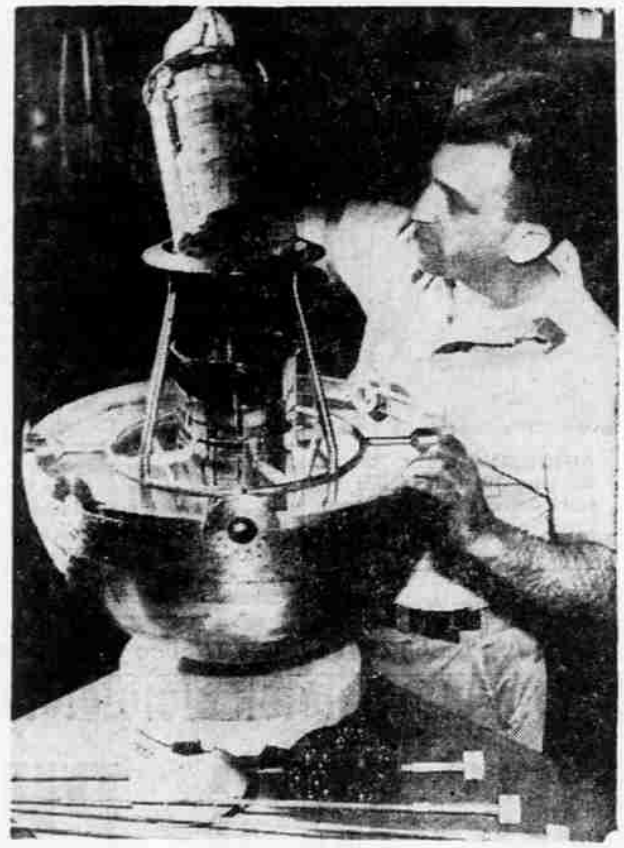
Attendance at the museum during November, 1958, was 1,158. Attendance from July 10, 1959 through Nov. 20, 1956 totaled 236,328.

Among gifts presented to the museum last month were legal papers issued in 1863 and 1865, hand-made linen from the 19th century, an Indian basket and a collection of mineral rocks.

John Moffat of Mann's Department store donated two work tables, which were delivered by the Jacksonville Lumber company.

Cash from sale of books during November totaled \$2, miscellaneous cash, \$1.25 and cash from sale of cards, \$6.30.

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**FIRST EARTH SATELLITE**—Photographers were permitted for the first time to photograph actual building of the first earth satellite at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D. C. Here Raymond Hotchkiss inserts the electronic package into the actual satellite. The package contains the complete electronic equipment of the sphere. In foreground are the antennas and the printed circuits used in the satellite. Actual launching is planned for the 1957-1958 International Geophysical Year.

### News About Books From the Library

With Christmas rapidly approaching, the Medford Public Library called the attention of homemakers, program chairmen and others to a collection of material available on all aspects of the holiday.

The answers to many of the puzzling questions and problems that come up at Christmas-time are to be found in the books set apart on special shelves. Mrs. Joyce Fuller, reference librarian, explained.

Questions most frequently range from the scientific explanation of the star seen by the wise men, to directions for making pomander ball gifts and for presenting a Christmas pageant.

**Holiday Customs**  
Material on hand includes holiday customs and legends, instructions for making gifts, decorations, and Christmas cakes and cookies, and ideas for entertainments.

Among the books which explain Christmas customs and traditions are Auld's "Christmas Tradition," Conant's "4000 Years of Christmas," Krythe's "All About Christmas," and Hottes' "1001 Christmas Facts and Fancies."

Ideas for gifts and decorations will be found in such books as the American Home Magazine's "Christmas Book," Biddle's "Christmas Idea Book," and Better Homes and Gardens' "Christmas Ideas."

Directions for making gifts are also given in the "Christmas Handbook" published by the Popular Mechanics Magazine and in "Gifts from your Kitchen" by Carl Lachlan.

**Entertainment Problem**  
If entertainment is the problem suggestions will be found in the library's many books on party giving, which include

Bell's "Parties on a Budget," Depew's "Cokesbury Party Book," and "The Abingdon Party and Banquet Book". There are available "The Modern Treasury of Christmas Plays" by Brink, "Let's Celebrate Christmas," by Gardner, and "25 Non-royalty Holiday Plays."

Books of Christmas stories and poetry are far too numerous to list. Sample titles are "Christmas Legends," by Lohan, "Told Under the Christmas Tree," by Cavanaugh, "The Christmas Book of Legends," by Smith, "Christmas in Legend and Story" by Smith; The Fireside Book of Christmas Stories" by Wagenknecht.

While many of these books are constantly in use at this season of the year, visitors to the library will usually find a good selection at hand from which they may find the answers to their own special questions or problems.

**Incorporation Articles Filed for Local Firm**

Articles of incorporation were filed in Salem last week for the Kirby Company of Southern Oregon, Inc., operated by William Charles Robison and Barbara Robison of Coos Bay.

For the past year the Robisons have been owners of the Kerby Company of Southern Oregon office in Medford, 115 North Oakdale ave., dealing with Kerby vacuum cleaner sales. They will continue ownership of the Medford office with the corporation noted in the title.

The articles were signed by Mr. and Mrs. Robison and Robert R. Dickey, Medford attorney.

Five times as many Englishmen are engaged in manufacturing as in farming.

### Mental Health Association Seeking Christmas Gifts

The Mental Health association of Oregon is attempting to secure a large number of gifts so that none of the approximately 7,000 patients at the three institutions for the mentally ill or retarded will spend Christmas without being remembered.

Only about half of the patients have relatives or friends who will remember to send gifts, according to Melvin Murphy, director of the Mental Health association.

The patients who do not receive gifts at Christmas are encouraged in their belief that no one really cares. No gifts can deepen a patient's mental illness; a gift that is obviously not just a matter of institutional "routine" can and has made it possible for many persons to begin the road to recovery, Murphy said.

**Kinds Needed**  
All kinds of gifts are needed. Gifts for adults are those most needed, Murphy said. They include cosmetics, tobacco, games, ties, candy, soap, playing cards, and other such items.

Some money is needed, and checks should be made out to Mrs. Thomas T. Denison, chairman, Christmas project, and sent to the Mental Health association. Money received will be used in three ways, depending on the amount received, Murphy noted.

**Tremendous Asset**  
Television has proven to be a tremendous asset to patients. There are several wards which do not as yet have TV, and officials hope that some clubs will donate sets, especially to the Oregon State hospital at Salem, which is the least well covered, Murphy said.

Some money is needed to secure individual gifts for special cases.

Some money is needed to secure large scale recreational devices, such as an electric piano.

### HILTS Icy Road Causes Accident

By Mrs. M. F. CAVIN  
Hilts—The icy condition of the highway was the cause of an accident Tuesday morning, when a trailer of a freight truck jack-knifed, making it unavoidable for a pickup, driven by Wes Morris, to stop in time.

Mrs. L. A. McCollough, Mrs. Donna De Voe and son Bobby, of Medford, and Mike Nunes, with a turkey dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. Orvil Green and daughter Jeri Lynn were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Goodwin and family in Montague, Monday evening, Tuesday evening, The Goodwin family had dinner at the Green home.

The teachers of the Hilts Elementary school are busy preparing for Christmas. The children of each room, with their teacher's help, have decorated their rooms.

On Thursday afternoon Dec. 20, at the regular PTA meeting, the first second, third and fourth grades will present their programs. On Thursday evening, at the club house the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades, with the help of members of our community, will present a Christmas carol program.

At the close of the program, sacks of candy, nuts, etc., will be presented to the children. Everyone is invited.

Blake Green, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. John Green, entered the Ashland General hospital, Thursday morning for a tonsillectomy.

Yreka business visitors Tuesday were Mrs. John Green and Mrs. H. G. Thompson.

### Engineers Schedule Swiss Film Monday

A Swiss film, "Last Word in Surveying," will be presented by Kendall B. Wood, Portland, at a meeting of the Rogue Valley section of the professional engineers.

The film will show Swiss scenery as well as the operation of optical surveying instruments in European airports, railways, highways, hydroelectric projects and Alpine peaks.

The meeting will be the first under presidency of James K. Hoey, new head of the Rogue Valley section. R. A. Johnson of Medford will introduce the speaker. The meeting will be open to any interested surveyors or engineers.

The wild boar, a favorite game animal of European nobles, is hunted today in the southeastern United States. The species is descended from imported animals that escaped from a game preserve.

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