

Sirius, Brightest Star in Sky, Visible in Southeast

By **FAY BENTLEY**
 "What is the bright star twinkling so brightly in the southeastern sky?" folks have recently inquired.
 That many people should notice scintillating, bluish-white Sirius is not at all surprising; it is the brightest star in the entire heavens.
 "All gleaming, darting points of spiny light.
 Sirius, the dancing star.
 The winter-rising," wrote Dolores Cairns as she fittingly

described this giant sun.
 Sirius, known also as the Dog Star, forms the head of the constellation, Canis Major the Great Dog, which constantly accompanies Orion, the Mighty Hunter, across the winter sky.
Nile Star
 Ancient Egyptians worshipped Sirius feeling that it in some way influenced the rising of the Nile river. When the "Nile Star" as the Egyptians called it, became visible just before dawn, the Nile river would soon flood

its delta, thereby renewing the fertility of the soil, and making possible a bountiful harvest.
Orion Dies
 Egyptian temples were often located in such a position that Sirius, at the time of its first rising, could be seen by the priests as they went through a passage to the sanctuary. This indicated that the time for certain religious ceremonies had arrived.
 The Romans, however, considered the dawn rising of Sirius as an evil omen. They believed

it brought the summer heat resulting in much sickness and disaster, and are supposed to have sacrificed red dogs to this star, although it is bluish-white in color.
 "Sirius parches head and knees," wrote Hesiod, an ancient poet. He called it the "Scorcher."
Roman Calendar
 In the Roman calendar, the 20 days just before the dawn rising of Sirius and the 20 days following its first rising were

called "dog days" and we still use this term to describe the hottest part of the summer.
 Sirius is a double, or binary star which means that another star constantly revolves around it. The companion star of Sirius is most unusual and interesting; a white dwarf composed of matter thousands of times heavier than lead. Scientists tell us that a pint of this material placed at the surface of the earth would weigh more than twenty-five tons!
 In mythology, Sirius was the favorite hound and constant com-

panion of Orion the Mighty Hunter who was blinded at the command of King Ceneus of Chios and carried to a distant seashore. The dog, left on the island of Chios, searched the paths over and over again for sight of his beloved master. Finally he became a wild dog, living alone, and hunting for the necessary food.
 After Orion had died and been given a place in the heavens, Jupiter in pity for the unhappy animal set the constellation,

Canis Major, in the sky near the Mighty Hunter so the dog could follow his master throughout all eternity.
 To locate Canis Major or the Great Dog, look to the southeast about 8 p.m. and find three stars of equal brightness which are spaced evenly in a short slanting line. This is the belt of Orion. Continue this slanted line downward and slightly to the left until the brilliant star, Sirius, is reached.
 As mentioned before, Sirius is

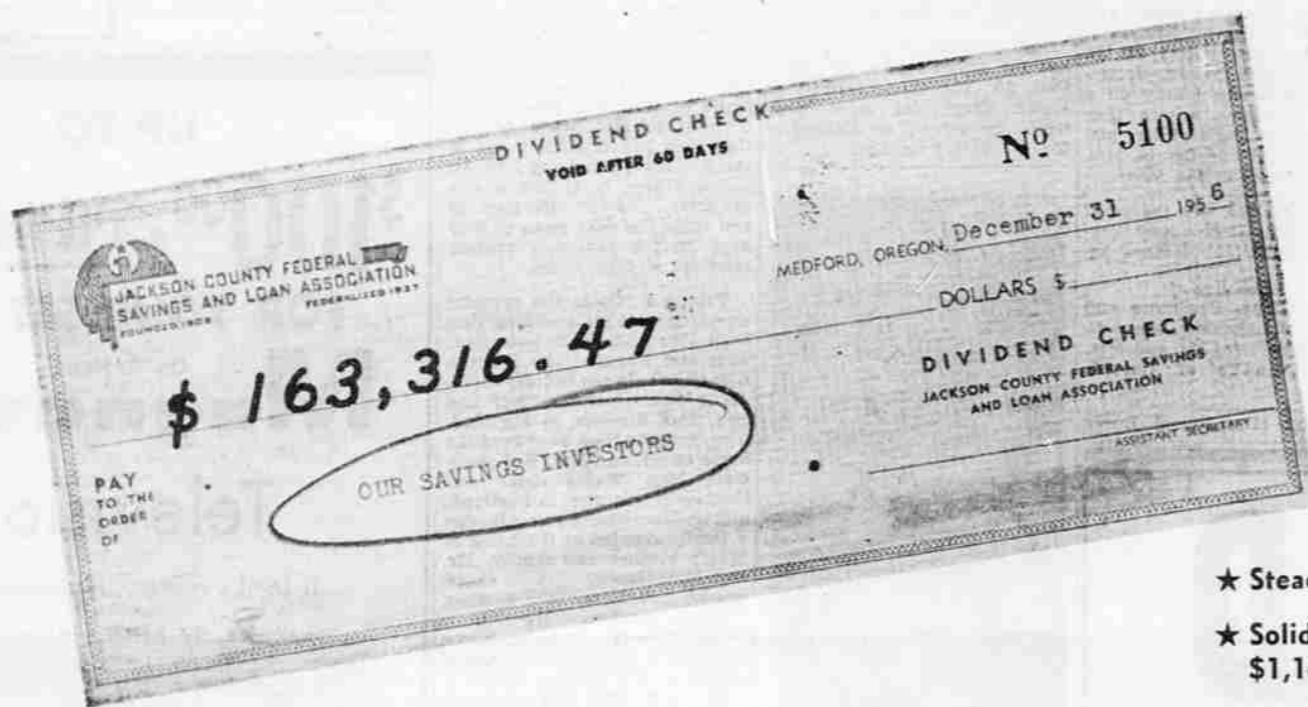
the head of the Great Dog. The stars in this constellation remind one somewhat of a stick figure animal. Beneath Sirius is a line of four much dimmer stars. The second of these four stars represent the dog's hips while the last two are his tail. This creature has two hind legs but his one foreleg is attached directly to his head!
 The first bridge across the Mississippi river was constructed at Davenport, Iowa, in 1853.

Sunday, January 6, 1957

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Loans on Savings Accounts	121,663.04
Other Loans	24,950.65
Properties Sold on Contract	17,794.59
Real Estate Owned and in Judgment	24,197.48
Investments and Securities	182,300.00
United States Government Bonds	931,734.33
Cash on Hand and in Banks	308,633.24
Office Building and Equipment	39,439.47
Deferred Charges and Other Assets	83,090.06
	\$11,656,780.36
LIABILITIES	
Savings Accounts	\$10,100,457.14
Loans in Process	360,109.70
Other Liabilities	38,987.60
Specific Reserves	14,025.15
General Reserves	910,873.80
Undivided Profits	232,326.97
	\$11,656,780.36

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