

# Clearing Skies Bring Spectacular View of Comet Arend-Roland

(Editor's note: The following article, reprinted from the Monday issue of the Bend (Ore.) Bulletin, is by Phil Brogan, associate editor of that paper, and one of the northwest's outstanding lay authorities on scientific matters, including astronomy. In it he describes the actions of the comet Arend-Roland, which has been visible from the Medford area for a week. The article, while describing the comet from a central Oregon vantage point, also applies to local viewing.)

By PHIL BROGAN

Clearing skies brought the Arend-Roland comet into spectacular relief in the northwest sky Sunday night, with a double feature staged.

At 9:45 p.m. a meteor, possibly an offspring of some other space wanderer, flashed across the nebulous tail of the comet.

Viewed from Central Oregon points, the comet, now racing back into outer space after paying homage to the sun, became visible shortly after dark Sunday night and remained visible until near midnight.

### At Terrific Speed

The comet, swinging away from the sun at a terrific pace, has moved into the region near the circumpolar stars — those, such as the Big Dipper, that never set.

Central Oregonians seeking the comet will find it tonight fairly high in the northwest, to the west of the "chair" in the constellation Cassiopeia, and about halfway between that group of stars and the bright stellar sun, Vega.

The tail of the comet is pointed "up," away from the sun. At present, the comet is "chasing" its tail in its race into the realm of Neptune and Pluto, possibly never to return. It is believed that the comet does not have a closed orbit.

### Rapidly Fading

The Arend-Roland comet, named after its Belgian discoverer, is now rapidly fading in brilliancy. Through a small binocular, the head of the comet is distinctly visible, with the nebulous tail stretching out into the spring stars.

Even third magnitude stars were visible through the trail of the comet Sunday night. The head of the comet is estimated to be some 35,000 miles across. The tail is millions of miles long.

Some astronomers believe the comet lost part of its long tail when it swung around the sun on April 8. The comet has never attained the brilliancy as first predicted.

### Rocky Fragments

Astronomers now believe that the heads of comets are composed of great masses of rocky fragments ranging in size from particles of dust to boulders as large as a house. Waste from these disintegrating masses streams away from the sun as tails, due to the pressure of the sun's light. Some comet tails are curved. Double tails have been observed.

Although the Arend-Roland

comet never attained the brilliancy of a bright star, such as Sirius, now low in the west at dusk, it is considered the most spectacular since the Halley comet of 1910.

Persons wishing to see the comet tonight have been advised to get away from bright lights. If the comet continues to move north into the circumpolar realm, it may be visible through the entire night before mid-week.

## In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

A federal reserve official—J. L. Robertson of Washington, a member of the federal system board of governors—estimates that U. S. gross total production services produced, will reach 550 billion dollars by 1965, as compared to 421 billion this year.

### SOUNDS good, doesn't it?

But remember this: He is talking in terms of dollars. The big question is HOW MUCH WILL A DOLLAR BUY in 1965?

THAT brings us back to taxes—which have a lot to do with prices, and how much money we taxpayers have left in our pockets to BUY THINGS WITH after the tax collectors have reached in and taken what they require.

And—This we mustn't forget—Whatever government SPENDS has to be taken out of the taxpayers. There is nowhere else for it to come from. The only way to reduce taxes is first to REDUCE SPENDING.

Members of the congress are getting back to Washington after their 10-day Easter vacation. Most of them spent the Easter recess back home among the voters. Those who did so are making big medicine over budget cuts and tax reductions.

Representative John Saylor, a Pennsylvania Democrat, expressed the feeling of many of the back-from-home lawmakers when he said his constituents want congress to "cut the budget with a pick-ax instead of a scalpel."

Senator Lyndon Johnson, Democratic leader in the senate, says he never has seen such strong demands for governmental economy. Senator Bill Knowland (Republican) leader in the senate, agrees with Senator Johnson as to the feeling of the people back home.

ALL this is interesting. It is interesting because UP TO NOW the politicians have believed the people like heavy government spending and want more of it. As long as the politicians believe that spending is what the people want they will GO ON SPENDING. They won't cut spending until they become convinced that less spending—which is the only way that taxes can be reduced—is what the people want.

SUPPLY and demand note: Most of the livestock action in the nation's big markets Monday centered on hogs—which up to mid-morning were selling steady to lower, with price losses running to 25 cents and more.

How come? The answer is that hog receipts 82,000 head at 12 markets were 20,000 head larger than a week ago. Slaughter cattle, on the other hand were in relatively small supply on the big market and sold at steady to higher prices.

WHY bring that up? Well, the politicians believe we can repeal the natural law of supply and demand. The FACT is that we CAN'T.

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## Machinery Storage Problems Solved

Urbana, Ill.—(U.P.)—University of Illinois agriculture specialists have channeled their talents to the problem of storing farm machinery and produced a number of workable solutions.

"You can get flexible farm machinery storage plans that will help you build exactly what you need for a specific farm," said Don Jedele, extension agricultural engineer at the school's college of agriculture.

"The most important thing to do is figure how many square feet of floor space each machine will need. Add these figures to get a total of needed area."

Jedele suggested that best use may be made of space by making side-opening sheds from 28 to 32 feet wide, while drive-through sheds should be constructed from 36 to 40 feet wide.

"Divide the total area needed by the width of the plan chosen to find needed length," Jedele advises. "But don't forget to allow for other machines which may be purchased later."

According to Jedele, latest plans completely eliminate interior posts.

"Most new buildings are clear-span with plenty of room for moving machinery inside," he said. "Machine sheds do not need to be closed."

Jedele warned that if doors are added, the builder must be sure to provide roof ventilators to let moisture out and provide for some semblance of air conditioning.

Brevity is the spice of fashion for spring '57 in the new costumes, and suit jackets, especially when typified by the Dutch boy look seemingly borrowed from an illustration from "Hans Brinker."

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