

Cassiopeia's Chair Is One Of Polar Constellations

By FAY BENTLEY

Beautiful Queen Cassiopeia, wife of King Cepheus of Ethiopia, possessed a great deal of beauty but, according to legend, little in the way of good common sense, and often indulged in vain and foolish boasting.

"My daughter, Andromeda, is the most beautiful girl in the world," she once said to her guests. "She is even more lovely than the nymphs who follow in Neptune's train."

Because Cassiopeia was a queen, the guests dared not question her statements. However, when the callers departed, one of them hurried to the seashore and repeated the boastful words of the queen to the nymphs.

Ask Calamity

In great anger the Nereids appeared before Father Neptune and demanded that some great calamity be visited upon the land of Ethiopia. The god of the sea attempted to reason with them, but in vain. Therefore, he released all kinds of disasters and plagues upon the land of Cepheus.

Poor King Cepheus, unable to understand the desolation that lay upon his country, sent a messenger to inquire of an oracle just what must be done to restore normal conditions.

"Oh, King, the mighty ruler of the sea has been angered by Queen Cassiopeia's foolish bragging about her daughter's beauty and will not be satisfied until Andromeda has been chained to a rock where a great sea monster can devour her," reported the messenger on his return.

Andromeda, alone, looked out to sea and in horror beheld a hideous, scaly monster, whose jaws dripped green slime! Nearer and nearer it approached the spot to which she was fastened.

Almost paralyzed with fright the maiden heard a comforting voice say, "Do not be afraid. No harm shall come to you." Looking up, she saw a handsome young man with wings on his shoulders and heels. It was Perseus journeying homeward after slaying the Gorgon, Medusa.

Commanding Andromeda to close her eyes, Perseus drew the

Gorgon's head from his pouch. Anyone who looked upon the snaky locks of Medusa at once turned to stone and this was the fate of the monster. Andromeda later became the wife of the hero who saved her life.

Daughter Alive

Cepheus and Cassiopeia wept for joy when they heard that their daughter was alive and the monster turned to stone.

Cassiopeia's Chair is shaped like a capital 'W' or 'M,' according to its position in the sky. It is one of the circum-polar constellations which constantly encircle the North Star, and may be seen on any clear night during the year.

To find this interesting star group begin with the Pointers in the Big Dipper. Trace an imaginary line from the bottom Point-

er through the top Pointer and on to the North Star. Continue this straight line beyond the North Star for about the same distance as the space between the Pointers and the North Star and you will reach Cassiopeia.

Cassiopeia's Chair and the Big Dipper are always on opposite sides of the northern sky with the North Star between them. As this star picture makes its circular journey around Polaris it sometimes resembles a sprawled out capital 'W' and at other times an 'M'. It takes a great deal of imagination to see a chair in this star group.

As Queen Cassiopeia makes this nightly journey in her chair, she must sometimes travel with her head down. According to legend this is to teach her humility.

One of the truly great wonders of the world is underfoot — the common root system of plants. The visible growth of a plant, even of a large tree, above ground is nothing compared to the spread and density of the underground growth.

We think of roots, perhaps, as being thick, muscular, brown. Perhaps as branching and occasionally rebranching.

But the true complexity of the root system goes far, far beyond this. Every tiny rootlet, down to the size of white sewing thread, will be covered with tiny, tiny root hairs. Their duty is to supply the tree, with water and nourishing minerals. Should a heavy rain fall, the tree's internal water works would not

Is That So?

gain a single drop until the water had filtered into the earth where it could be picked up by these root hairs—each hair, like a tiny mouth, drinking in water and dissolved minerals.

Bit of Moisture

Given the least bit of moisture in the soil, many, if not all of the cells just back from the root tip stretch into hairs making the root-tip look like a bit of felt.

This bit of "felt," perhaps the liveliest part of the whole tree, is seldom longer than one quarter of an inch, more often 1/100th part of that. But each rootlet has its little day and passes. Work done, it shrivels up while new hairs spring out constantly.

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Surely no one living will ever unearth and measure the length of a mature tree's root hairs. But should you claim that a big tree has a root system which laid end to end would reach through the earth from San Francisco to New Delhi, no one could contradict you—and the chances are it would be a vast understatement. In fact, Dr. H. J. Dittmar of Chicago estimated that a single plant of winter rye produced a total of 14 billion hairs with a length of 6,600 miles. I repeat, that was a single plant of winter rye.

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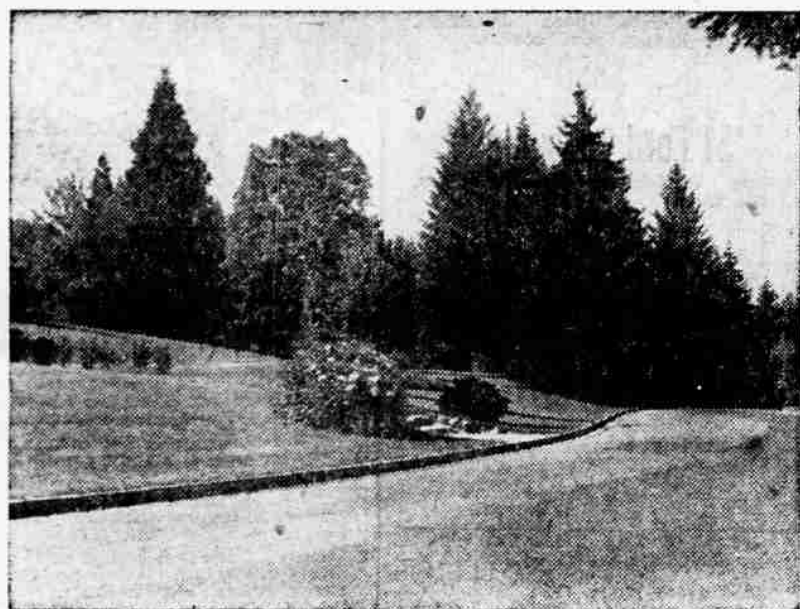
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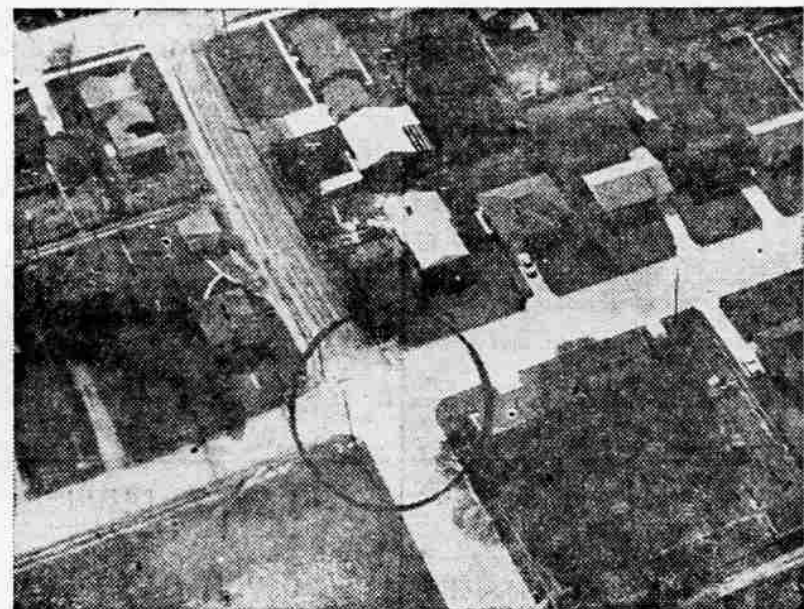
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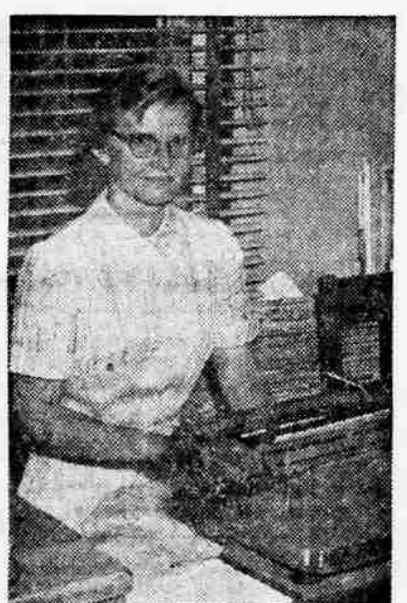
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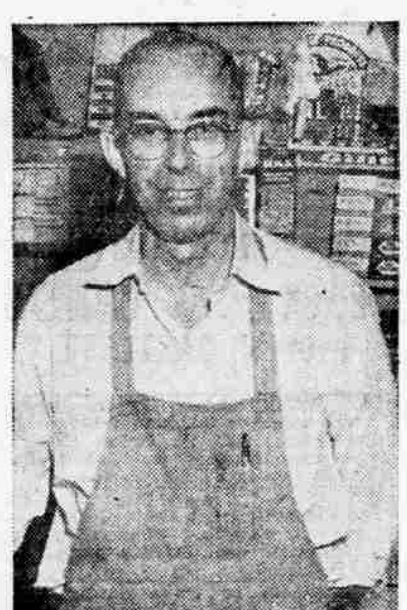
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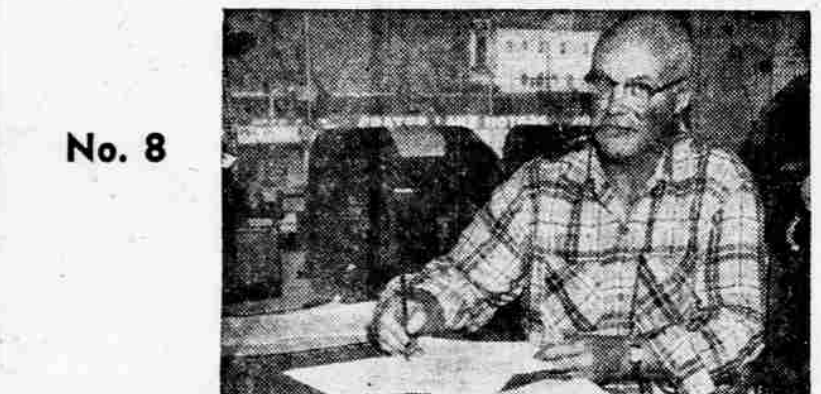
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SEPTEMBER 7 to 16

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2—Mail your entry within 24 hours if delivery is by Mail Tribune Carrier, or within 36 hours if delivery is by mail in Jackson, Josephine or Siskiyou Counties. Only entries from the three counties will be considered.

3—Today's winner will be announced the corresponding day next week and presented with a FREE SUBSCRIPTION for one year.

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Tidewater Co. Moves Into New Offices

The Southern Oregon headquarters for the Tidewater Oil company will move to No. 7, office park, 1133 South Riverside, according to R. J. Reid, Medford area supervisor for the company.

Cities served by the headquarters are Medford, Ashland, Klamath Falls, Lakeview, Grants Pass, Roseburg and coastal points. Former offices of the company were at Leverette building.

Other employees working at the Medford headquarters are Howard Loge and H. R. Hall.

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