

FOOTBALL PROSPECTS
Lorain, Ohio—High school football coaches may be missing a lot of gridiron talent by ignoring the coeds, says Ivan P. Lambert, a public school psychologist. Girls in better physical condition to play football at the ages of 16 and 17 than boys are, according to Lambert. Their muscles develop earlier and their joints are "smoothed off" at the 16-year level, the psychologist explained. He didn't advocate, however, that girls take up football.

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Long-time Legend of Hoffman's Comet Verified After Research

Ashland—No more exciting, dramatic, or fascinating story has appeared during Oregon's Centennial year celebration than the attempt to verify a long-time legend, "Squire Hoffman's Comet" by Dr. Arthur S. Taylor, Southern Oregon college professor.

Combining an entry in a pioneer journal of 1853, a shining object in the Western skies during that same year, and research experts from SOC and Harvard university, the tale opens with these words in Squire Hoffman's own handwriting:

"Aug. 25, 1853. We left the west branch of Raft river at we have traveled sometime past. A comet has appeared in the west for a week past

POWER STEERING
Washington—The aircraft industry has developed an electronic power steering system for supersonic fighters—bombers that makes takeoffs and landings at speeds of 200 miles an hour as easy as steering the family automobile. Plans, official publication of the Aircraft Industries Association, says conventional mechanical steering systems were too slow to cope with the high speed of the latest aircraft. A half-second delay in responding to the pilot's signal could send the jet plunging off the runway. The new system, which was tailor-made to match the average pilot's physical reactions, guarantees complete control of the jet on the ground at all times.

7 o'clock a.m., and proceeded 10 miles to lunch, then on toward Rock Creek, 8 miles farther, making a distance of 18 miles for the day's travel over tolerably good road. Crossing several streams of water. We are encamped about 2 miles ahead of the other two trains in whose company

Rediscovered Comet To Be Seen

Cambridge, Mass.—(Science Service)—A comet expected to give a good display of meteors this fall has been rediscovered by Elizabeth Roemer of the U.S. Naval Observatory in the Flagstaff, Ariz.

Although it is now much too faint to be seen without a very large telescope, the comet will brighten sufficiently by late October to be visible with binoculars or a small telescope. Known as Comet Giacobini-Zinner, the object is remarkable for the showers of meteors it produced in 1933 and 1946.

The comet will be within about 30,000,000 miles of the earth on Nov. 7, and the meteor display is expected about the same time.

News of the comet's rediscovery when it is only a faint magnitude 20 was reported to astronomers in the Western Hemisphere by Harvard College Observatory here.

New Zealand has about two and one-half head of cattle per capita.

having a considerably long tail. At times it appears very brilliant."

No More Reference

Since there was no further reference to the comet in the old journal or in any contemporary accounts, it may have been likely Hoffman invented the story and speculation about the interesting entry discloses that only half of the original journal still exists. The half in which the comet "legend" appears was discovered in a handwritten copy of the journal in the effects of the late Professor Irving E. Vining, a grandson, who served on the faculty of the old Southern Oregon State Normal school.

As the existence of the comet at this point is based upon somewhat shaky premises, it may be well to bolster up Squire Hoffman's side of the matter by shedding some light upon the type of man he actually was.

According to Dr. Taylor, all accounts disclose that William Hoffman, called as a mark of respect, "Squire" by the early settlers, was one of the most interesting men who came across the plains. People are still living in Jackson county who can recall his tall, straight figure walking to his office in Jacksonville from his home in the Griffin Creek neighborhood.

Active Life
Born in Baltimore, Md., Sept. 6, 1801, the Squire had a remarkably active life, having engaged in a number of successful business ventures in the East. Upon his arrival

in Oregon, he soon became a man of consequence in southern Oregon, having been elected county auditor under the territorial government in 1855, and later serving as county clerk and notary public in historic Jacksonville for many years.

Sea Cucumber May Become Food

Washington—(Science Service)—Sea cucumber chowder may soon be occupying a high place on the fish lover's menu.

The white meat of this fleshy relative of the starfish looks and tastes like excellent quality sliced clam meats, said John A. Dassow of the U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Seattle, Wash.

In the North Pacific, sea cucumbers may be gathered at any season. However, native Alaskans say their quality is poor during warmer weather. Preparation of the tube-shaped animal is simple, the scientist reported.

After it is cleaned and eviscerated—by cutting off one or both ends, splitting down the side, and scraping and washing—the thin white strips of meat can be cooked and used as a clam substitute.

The sea cucumber can also be canned, frozen, or dried and used in the same way as trepang or dried sea cucumber of the Orient.

man's inventing the story is "Highly improbable. I'll admit that he could have invented the story, but William Hoffman, as you can see, was a man of high character. Besides, there are no other improbable entries in his journal. Other pioneers may have drawn a long bow about their experiences, but not Squire Hoffman."

Dr. Taylor said it was "Possible, but not probable," the entry made by some other person to "If a spurious entry had been made, there would be a tendency to make it more dramatic."

Dr. William M. McKinney, a member of the SOC social science staff, became interested in the unusual story.

Disclose No Evidence
A search of available records disclosed no evidence of such a comet, but the story rang too true in McKinney's ears to be merely a fascinating legend and not a factual account, so he wrote a letter to the chairman of the Harvard university department of astronomy, Professor Cecilia Payne-Gaposchwin, enclosing an excerpt from the Squire's journal referring to the comet.

Professor Payne-Gaposchwin's return letter gave some light on the subject.

"Dear Dr. McKinney: The comet must have been Comet 1853 III, which was discovered at the Gottingen Observatory, Germany, by the astronomer, Klinkerfues, on June 10, 1853. It was a very bright comet, and was seen in full daylight by observers

INFANTS' WEAR NEXT?
Milwaukee—Miss Lorraine Reider, Milwaukee, was recently made assistant manager of the maternity section only three days later.

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