

Down to Earth

Think You've Found Meteor?
Better Have the Rock Tested

By J. HUGH PRUETT
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Higher Education System
The fall of the brilliant Hunters' Silver meteor at 2:30 p. m., October 1, 1949, over a locality 25 or 30 miles west of Canyon City in Grant county, has renewed interest in attempting to discover a "fourth meteorite" for our state. In various places in Oregon, even in a few museums, material is being displayed as "stones which fell from the sky" which are nothing more than ordinary earth rocks. It is regrettable that the owners of such terrestrial specimens do not have them examined by an authority on such matters before presenting them to the public as real meteorites.

During the past 17 years, well toward 1000 "suspected" rock samples from the western parts of the United States and Canada have been sent to me for testing. Exactly four have been the "real thing." Large numbers were said to have been seen to fall. But the evidence was usually based on the sight of brilliant meteors, many of which "seemed" to strike the top of a nearby hill, when actually they were likely 100 or 200 miles beyond the hill. Flaming meteors usually cease to glow when from 10 to 40 miles above the earth, and any unburned fragments complete the fall as dark bodies.

Only three meteoritic falls are accredited in lists prepared by world authorities as ever having been recovered in Oregon: the Port Orford in 1859, the Sam's valley in 1894, and the Willamette in 1902. None of these was seen to fall as far as is known. If anyone thinks he knows of another, he should arrange to have tests made to determine whether he is correct.

Solid, Heavy
Fallen meteorites may remain on the surface of the ground or penetrate a few feet below the surface. They are always solid and heavy; never porous and full of holes as are clinkers and lava, the most common materials sent in for testing. When freshly fallen, they have a burned-appearing crust. The metallic type is almost entirely nickel and iron, and appears silvery when the thin crust is removed with a file. The stony type usually has nickel-iron grains of silvery hue embedded in the stony material.

It seems quite likely that the October 1 fireball, which fell almost straight down, reached the earth before being entirely consumed. If it was of the metallic type, it probably landed in one piece; if stony, it may have sprinkled a considerable area with "celestial shrapnel." It is hoped that everyone in the

general region of fall will be on a lookout for unusual rocks, and if found, will send specimens to me at once at Eugene. A piece the size of a prune is quite sufficient. Large museums always furnish a ready market—and at big prices—for genuine meteorites.

Baby's Weight
In Diamonds?

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Nov. 22 (AP)—Prince Aly Khan laughingly dismissed as "complete nonsense" a French press report that his father, the Aga Khan had promised him his expected baby's weight in diamonds.

A baby is due to be born here to the prince's wife, movie actress Rita Hayworth, in the near future. "I only wish the story was true," the prince said with a broad smile. "I wish somebody would give me the baby's weight in diamonds—or just a single diamond."

Halogeton Weed,
Sheep Killer

MOSCOW, Idaho, (AP)—Sheep-growers in the west are cooperating with plant experts to fight an innocent-looking weed known as the halogeton. It looks like Russian thistle but contains enough oxalic acid to kill a sheep that eats a pound and a half of the weed. Thousands of sheep have been lost since the halogeton first appeared in Idaho two years ago. Nevada has had a similar losses. It is spreading, and is hard to control because it takes hold readily on poor land that is worth less than the cost of killing the weed off. From such bases it spreads to better land and crowds out useful plants.

Plane Reports Asked
By Administration

WASHINGTON, (AP)—The civil aeronautics administration and the armed forces have called upon the public to report cases of "buzzing" or reckless flying by any pilot. Administrator D. W. Reetzel says reports should be made to the aeronautics administration's nearest office, which usually will be found listed in the telephone directory under "United States Government." It's important to get plane numbers if possible.

The Ole Miss-Memphis State grid series dates back 28 years, to 1921. Ole Miss has won all seven games played.



CONGRESSWOMAN COOKS—Mrs. Edna Flannery Kelly (left), elected to Congress from Brooklyn, New York City, cooks bacon and eggs for her daughter, Maura Patricia.

Film Fanfare

'Good Girl' Roles Boring
Teresa; Eyes Stage Return

By BOB THOMAS
HOLLYWOOD, Nov. 22 (AP)—Fed up with playing a Pollyanna on the screen, Teresa Wright is seeking a return to the stage. "I don't particularly want to play bad women," she remarked on "The Men" set. "But I would like to play a girl who has a few problems and doesn't always know how to solve them."

"I would like to work with a stock company for a few seasons, then try a play in New York. I don't feel up to facing Broadway now; it has been eight years since I was on the stage." Teresa said her role in "The Capture" has more "spunk" than she is usually allowed. No wonder—it was written and produced by her husband Niven Busch, who agrees with her views. She found working with him was "stimulating."

"We had our disagreements during the picture," she said, "but we worked them out. It brought us closer by giving us more in common."

"Stromboli" is causing even more trouble, reports from Italy indicate. It's said that the Rosellini-Bergman film was cut here, then re-cut in Italy, where official censors declared some of the footage is too hot.

his hoodlum role in "Asphalt Jungle." "Those panty-waist roles I had before weren't acting," he admits. If he proves himself in the part he will land an MGM contract.

Sterling is a different man since his wartime and postwar days when he asserted at Hollywood. "Everybody has to grow up some day," he admits.

Another milestone on the road to realism: the call sheet on "A Place in the Sun" asked for "20 factory girls—not too pretty." "A la Carte" looks like another musical hit to hypno the ailing Los Angeles legit season. It's a tasteful review following in the footsteps of "Meet the People" and "Lend an Ear." Among the first-nighters were Red Skelton and John Wayne, who helped back the show.

Deanna Durbin tells me she dined recently with her first husband, Vaughn Paul. He dropped from sight after he and the songbird divorced and has been ailing. Jimmy Lydon debuts as a singer in "September," but admits "Crossby has nothing to worry about." A juvenile actor in his first screen role watched Robert Walker fluff a few lines in "The Skipper Surprised His Wife." Before the kid was hustled off to the classroom, he said to Bob, "maybe you'd better come back to school with us."

The Dick Powells finished their co-starring film and will fly to Hawaii at the end of the month for a two-week rest. They may extend the vacation if June can postpone a guest spot with Edgar Bergen. Sterling Hayden is delighted with

High Pressure
Education

GALESBURG, Ill., (AP)—Cooperative selling class students in Gales-

burg senior high school actually vend wares in local stores to sell themselves to teachers for good grades.

In addition, the students gain experience in the classroom in displaying merchandise loaned by Galesburg merchants.

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