

OUTWARD TO THE STARS (2)—Copernicus

By Don Oakley and Ralph Lane



Man's knowledge of the universe moved ahead with the years.

(1) Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543), of Poland, was repelled by the complicated, earth-centered Ptolemaic universe which had been accepted as truth for centuries. From his observations, Copernicus came to the conclusion that the Earth was just another planet, rotating on its axis and revolving about the Sun. The Sun, and not the Earth, was the center of the universe. Shortly after his death, the Inquisition clamped its grip on Europe.

(2) The Italian Giordano Bruno (1548?-1600) was not an astronomer, but a philosopher. Herald of the modern age of science, he extended the Copernican system. He proclaimed that not only the Earth, but the Sun and all its planets were only a tiny part of the universe. For such heresy he was burned at the stake.

(3) Tycho Brahe (1546-1601) built the first observatory in the western world, on an island off his native Denmark. Brahe was a great observer and contributed much to astronomy. But he was never able to accept Copernicus' theories.

(4) Brahe's assistant, Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) of Austria, demolished the old Greek astronomy of perfect circular orbits for planets. His mathematics laid the groundwork for Newton's law of gravitation.

(5) The Italian Galileo Galilei (1564-1642) built the first astronomical telescope and was amazed when he turned it toward the Moon. He was the first man to see a heavenly body as it really was. And he declared that Copernicus was right—the Earth did indeed move about the Sun. But as an old man he was forced to recant his theories. It was for a later age to recognize his genius.

Next: Newton, Mechanic of the Universe.

Teachers Ask Salary Boost

Portland (AP) — Three teachers' organizations proposed last night to increase teacher salaries by raising the school tax base 35 per cent. The Portland school board failed to go along. Nicholas Granet, one of the seven board members, proposed to put the matter on the ballot. His motion failed for want of a second.

The proposal came from the Portland unit of the Oregon Education Assn., the Portland Grade Teachers Assn. and the Portland High School Teachers Assn. Their proposal would continue present starting salaries of \$4,000 for a teacher with a bachelor's degree and \$4,200 for a master's degree, then going up 9 per cent a year to a top of \$8,687 for a bachelor's degree and \$9,944 for a master's.

The present top is \$6,300 and \$6,700 after 13 and 14 years respectively.

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CLYDE HEBARD, right, retired chief of police of Yreka, was honored at a recent Yreka City Council meeting by the presentation of an honorary retired chief of police badge, which was pinned on him by former police commissioner Harry Friedman. Hebard, who retired last June, after serving Yreka for 17 years as its police chief, originally came to Siskiyou County from Wisconsin in 1926. Others in the picture are Councilman Harry Friedman, left, and Mayor James Cummings, center.

American Communications System Continues To Grow

By ELMER C. WALZER

NEW YORK (UPI) — With American industry spreading out all over the nation with its branch offices and plants a giant system of communications is growing and growing.

American Telephone & Telegraph Company's long lines department sets up 5,868,760 miles of circuits for 5,527 services to industry in teletypewriter service. Also there are 7,259 users of private telephone lines with a total mileage of 2,565,140 miles.

Companies using these far-flung communications systems keep in touch with all developments of their various plants and offices. And the process makes a piece of big business for the telephone company.

Some of the systems resemble the press associations with their busy wire communications throughout the nation.

Largest users of private communication systems include General Motors, General Electric, U. S. Steel, Western Electric, Du Pont, New York Central, Chesapeake & Ohio, Republic Steel, Armour and Swift. Of course, the airlines are linked up with a vast network of wires.

One of the new communications systems recently installed was for Swift & Co. Swift replaced its old communications system with a fully automatic teletypewriter system, the first of its kind in the food industry, according to American Telephone.

That company notes that Swift must have speedy communications because of the keen competition in the meat business where products are perishable, and profit margins very close. Market prices and available product supplies must be kept under constant observation.

The system also aids the immediate delivery of products and permits a quick response to customer inquiries.

Information comes in from all over the country and is processed by ATT processing equipment and facts then are distributed to the Swift sales organization.

Swift's new communication system links 55 cities from coast to coast with 16,400 miles of circuits. It can transmit 90,000 words an hour, more than twice the wordage of the company's old system.

Teen-Agers Find Mortar Shell

PORTLAND (AP)—A live mortar shell was pulled from the Tualatin River yesterday by two teen-age fishermen.

Ladd Jackson, 14, and Bill Joyner, said they saw the shell in the water, about 500 yards upstream from the Baldock freeway. They managed to fish it out.

The boys said they dropped the shell a couple of times while bringing it home. They had no idea it was dangerous until a neighbor recognized it as a 60 millimeter mortar shell. A sergeant from the 53rd Ordnance Department said it was live. He took it away to be destroyed.

Smokey Bear Breaks 100; Forest Fire Total Drops

By DION HENDERSON
Associated Press Staff Writer

Smokey Bear finally has broken 100.

The big buy in the fur coat, symbol of the forest service campaign to reduce the fire toll of timber and wildlife, might look a little happier on the familiar warning posters on the basis of last year's record.

Finished totalling up the reports, the service figures there were only 83,400 forest fires in the nation last year. That was the first year that fires dropped below the 100,000 mark and compares with 143,000 the previous year. The area burned was reduced by just about half.

Ten years ago, there were more than 200,000 fires.

The improvement, however, was not a general thing. In the South, the Southern Forest Fire Conference formed two years ago in New Orleans could take a good deal of credit in the area's cutting its number of fires by more than half. Under the system, law enforcement at even the county level has slashed a major cause — the incendiary.

But in some other states, acreage burned increased from two to seven times. In Idaho, only a few more fires destroyed trees on more than 135,000 acres, compared with less than 20,000 acres burned the year before.

Alaska, not included in the state totals for 1957, had one of its worst fire years on record, with 264 fires burning over nearly 5 million acres.

Who was the guy responsible for starting most of them? The fellow who started out to burn rubbish. So Smokey still has work to do.

Lightning Bolts Strike Airliner

LONDON (UPI) — Three lightning bolts damaged a British European Airways Viscount carrying 45 passengers when it ran into a severe storm over Western France Monday.

Pilot John Cann made an emergency landing at Cognac, France, after the successive bolts cracked the windshield, damaged an engine cowling, and knocked out the plane's navigation lights. Nobody was hurt.

Children's Killer Pleads Insanity

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (UPI)—Norman A. Foose, 42, a black-bearded prospector, pleaded innocent by reason of insanity Monday in the wanton slayings of two children last July 10.

Foose, a former mental patient from St. George, Utah, was captured shortly after he shot and killed a 10-year-old girl and a 13-year-old boy with a high-powered rifle "because the Lord told me to help depopulate the world."

A sanity hearing and hearing on Foose's request for a change of venue have not yet been scheduled.

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