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An Illimitable Universe

The birth and evolution of the stars and planets out of cosmic dust and gas interest the leading astronomers of the world.

When astronomers begin to think of the cosmos, they use measuring devices of immensity. They talk of light-years to measure distance, meaning the distance that light will travel in a year, moving 186,000 miles a second.

Just now the astronomers are greatly interested in the small, dark nebulae, called globules, which they think represent a stage just prior to the formation of a star.

The size of the globules is measured in astronomical units equal to the radius of the earth's orbit around the sun, namely 93,000,000 miles.

Even a small globule-like mass often has a diameter of sixty thousand to one hundred twenty thousand astronomical units. A pencil slice of paper will reveal that 120,000 times 93,000,000 miles represents a considerable diameter.

We call attention to the research of modern astronomers because, in our opinion, there is nothing whatever in their revelations to decrease the amazement and admiration of mankind for the Creator of the Universe.

There are any number of reasons why progressive discovery of truth should shake the faith of intelligent believers.

Bull Fight Riot

The Mexicans take their bull fights seriously. Disatisfied with the results of a recent performance, they staged a riot of such proportions that the arena was called the "battle of the arena."

The damage is estimated up to \$50,000. Infuriated Aficionados, or fans, burned cushions, wrecked equipment and roared "aw-lins!" at everyone, including the bull.

It seems that the spectators were displeased with the size of the non-combative animal and also with the performance of a star bull-fighter, who finally used his weapon on a spectator instead of the bull.

Before we comment caustically upon the behavior of the Mexicans, we might remember that Americans, when watching football games, boxing and wrestling matches, and other sports, sometimes behave in a manner equalling that of the Mexicans in Mexico City.

A CONGRESSMAN HAS SUGGESTED THAT \$100,000,000 can be saved to the nation's taxpayers if the axe were applied to the piles of publicity "releases" issued by government "press relations" departments.

SOME FOLKS BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES is drifting toward some form of Socialism. Unless Americans do restore their former respect for law and order, that is exactly what we are coming to, in our opinion.

Lincoln's Birthday

The month of February presents the anniversary of the birth of two of the great Presidents of the nation, George Washington, the first President, on the twenty-second, and Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth, on the twelfth.

The life and career of President Lincoln has been an inspiration to many Americans, who, despite difficulties, have been encouraged by his great success.

Coming to the presidency as a result of the division between his opponents, Mr. Lincoln lived the tragedy of a nation divided. He faced the surrender of the principal armies of the Confederacy, six days later, was fatally wounded while witnessing a play at Ford's Theater in Washington.

The martyred President was thus unfortunately removed from the presidency before he had an opportunity to exercise his great powers in healing the wounds of the struggle between the North and the South.

That the course of events might have been different had he lived is apparent from a reading of history. He remains the idol and ideal of millions of Americans and retains his place in the affections of the nation.

Pillows For Priority

A newspaper dispatch from Sofia, Bulgaria, says that expectant mothers are given priority in buying practically everything from shoes to sugar.

The result is that the men have always found themselves at the tail of the line, trailing hundreds of expectant mothers. This aroused suspicion and a gendarme, hearing the many complaints, summoned his wife, deputized her on the spot and told her to investigate.

The result showed that fully three-fourths of the "expectant mothers" had made judicious, if fraudulent, use of small pillows.

BEING THE "BEST DRESSED WOMAN IN AMERICA" is just a lot of commercial malarkey. For consistent correct apparel on the feminine form, nothing will ever take the basic place of the kitchen apron.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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EDITOR: GEORGE R. AVERILL. Editor and Publisher. PAUL NEAL AVERILL. Business Manager. GEORGE W. AVERILL. Advertising Manager. HAROLD F. BURGER. Advertising Manager.

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributed material providing it has news value, and suggestions are welcomed. Contributions are usually edited summarily so that they conform to general newspaper style. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the Eccentric will be corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO February 11, 1907 The Sigma Phi wish it understood that married people who receive invitations to their parties will be just as welcome as anyone, reports to the contrary notwithstanding.



People's Column

To the Editor: I would like to bring your attention to a matter of safety, pertaining to firearms. Since the war, there are a great many rifles and pistols of foreign manufacture owned by various residents of this community which were acquired as war relics.

However, before attempting to fire one of these arms, one should make certain what cartridge it is made for. Often a cartridge not intended for the weapon, but which can be inserted in the chamber and fired, will damage the gun and injure the shooter.

There is any doubt about the ammunition required for any gun, it can be determined by making a sulphur cast of the chamber, mimograph instructions for making sulphur casts can be had from the National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, Washington, D. C.

LAWRENCE E. SMITH, Member National Rifle Association and Birmingham Gun Club.

BITS OF B'HAM

A spray that prevents apples from dropping prematurely is being produced by an oil manufacturer. Tests show that it delays fruit-drop until 1/20 of a second, sometimes as much as three weeks after it normally would occur.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

In the last war, 1942 "Keep the Home Front Burning." We are looking for a song any day now. "Turn Out the Lights." "Cait Allen" has a new lighter which never fails to awe the spectator. After the primary flame gets lit (which sometimes is no small task) a special tube shoots flame out to the side, making it possible to use the lighter for a pipe. It sounds something like a miniature blow torch, and frankly if this Wanderer handled Col's insurance, he would cancel it. The thing looks dangerous.

Jim Jensen holds the attendance record at Adams Junior High School. Jim has never been absent or tardy since he entered kindergarten.

A new factory for the Birmingham area is now being erected on East Maple avenue, just outside the city limits, by the Watts Electric & Manufacturing Company of Detroit.

Plans are complete for the third Selective Service registration in Baldwin High School in Birmingham, and in the Birmingham Township Hall, and at the Big Beaver School, for Troy Township residents.

Have You Met . . . Mr. and Mrs. David Canham, who recently moved here from Hollywood, Calif? The Canhams and their three-year-old child live at 1535 Washington Blvd., and Mr. Canham is with the purchasing department of Fisher Body Corp.

In Communist Russia, an individual cannot own and operate even such a small profit-making enterprise as a farm, a corner grocery store or a barber shop. And there are only two other points of view: the government's, and the wrong one!

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a hearing in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 3rd day of February, A.D. 1947. Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

SEVERAL days ago my friend, the Doc, was showing me his collection of negatives—almost 2,000 of them—which he has made in a five year period.

Today's shot, for example, is one that Doc, or any railroad fan, might like. It's good pictorially; it has good composition. It was made, too, with an exposure of 1/20 at f/11—an exposure roughly equivalent to that of a simple box camera. No faster exposure was necessary since the photographer shot head-on as the train slowly rounded a curve after leaving a station and was just gaining speed.

This is just one example to be sure, of how picture taking fits into other hobbies. If you work with wood, why not try picturing the new table you are making, both in the process of construction and in its finished glory? Or if you're a sports fan—sports pictures are among the most interesting of all.

So whether you build model railroads like Doc, are an avid bird watcher, still chase an engine, or devote your off hours largely to your garden, try picturing your hobby. This is just one example to be sure, of how picture taking fits into other hobbies. If you work with wood, why not try picturing the new table you are making, both in the process of construction and in its finished glory? Or if you're a sports fan—sports pictures are among the most interesting of all.

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MR. CLIFFORD S. MOYNIER, 728 Oakwood Road, Detroit, Michigan 46-47-48

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JOHN VAN CULLDER