

Two Billion Years Added To Age of the Universe

Astronomers tell us that astronomical estimates are being revised as a result of the failure of a certain star to appear on an astronomer's telescope a couple of years ago. Their investigation disclosed new knowledge which had led to the following theories:

1. The Universe is now calculated to be four billion years old—not two billion.
2. The earth's Milky Way is not now considered to be twice as large as other galaxies.
3. Galaxies and stars beyond the Milky Way are much larger than heretofore supposed and the Universe is expanding slower than supposed.

IN ADDITION, THERE ARE other revised calculations and astronomers now believe that they can observe eight times as much of the Universe as they previously thought.

It also is believed that the 200-inch Palomar Mountain telescope has penetrated much further into outer space than heretofore assumed. The Palomar telescope's penetration is measured by light years—going into the billions.

As a diversion, we suggest the subject of astronomy. Few people can seriously

into it without reaching somewhere along the line, the conclusion that they and this earth are rather insignificant things.

INDEED, WHEN ONE STOPS to think that we are observing stars a couple of billion light years away, knowing that there are stars and planets even farther away which we cannot see or know anything about, it is a sobering thought.

The answer to most of the major astronomical problems is yet to be furnished but one trend is clear in the studies which have been made by our civilization in recent years.

That is the tendency of astronomers to steadily revise their calculations of outer space and the Universe, as new discoveries are made. Whether there is a form of life, comparable to human life, on any of the other planets in the Universe, is a question the scientists cannot yet answer.

However in view of the vastness of the areas already discovered, it is not illogical to assume that there might be many surprises awaiting the poor mortals on this earth which will be uncovered only gradually as we develop space ships, traveling at speeds which will enable us to investigate at least a fraction of the limitless space around us.

Example of 'Enterprise' USA

Everyone is fascinated by a success story. Making good against odds is inspiring. America became a great nation because it was a land of opportunity and the right of the individual to make the most of those opportunities was protected.

Buchanan, Georgia, after World War II has about as many desirable for any community could be and still not become a ghost town. With a population of about 500 it lay in a declining cotton area. Young folks were leaving to seek work elsewhere.

At the end of the war a couple of veterans who lived in Buchanan decided to do something about the situation. They enlisted the support of townspeople to build a factory. Then they interested a large shirt manufacturing concern in leasing the

factory. The result was the town literally lifted itself by its boot straps out of oblivion.

HUNDREDS OF LOCAL PEOPLE were employed in the factory. Within a year there was money to pave the court house square, build a new Baptist church, a movie theater, a new drug store and a dry cleaning plant. A baseball club was formed. Young people stopped migrating to cities.

The story of Buchanan, Georgia, is significant for two reasons. First it shows that this country is still a land of opportunity, and secondly it shows that local problems can be solved without subsidies or handouts. We need more Buchanans.

People Are Suburban-Bound

A much-discussed phenomenon of recent times has been the trend toward rural and suburban living. As the Census Bureau breakdowns show, there has been a steady migration out of the great, crowded centers of population and into the country.

All kinds of factors have played their part in this—rapid transportation, which makes commuting swift and easy, first class schools, the desire of people to spend their leisure hours in natural surroundings, and so on. One factor which hasn't been given as much notice as it may deserve is present-day rural and suburban retailing.

The small-community shopping center of today is a far cry from that of the past. It contains all kinds of stores—chains, independents, often branches of big-city department stores. Standards of display, sanitation and service are of the best. A

wide and attractive selection of goods is offered. Competition, which is just as potent in the country as in the metropolis, sees to it that prices are held to their proper level.

THIS DOESN'T MEAN that our big cities are withering away. Quite obviously they are a permanent part of the landscape, and many will keep right on growing.

What it does mean is that representative small-town and suburban areas are growing even faster, and that the face of the little community is undergoing a continuing and salutary change. The rural dweller gets the same kind of goods and services as his city cousin, he gets them at about the same price with less effort. Retailing is one of the pace-setters for a better nation.

Competition Is the Best Regulator

Herrell DeGraff, an authority on food economies, recently discussed the big subject of food prices. At the end he made this memorable observation: "I have not the slightest doubt that if we can retain an unfettered competitive market, we will continue in the future to get more and better food and service for our retail dollar, as we have in the past."

"Food prices and services determined by competition will be sometimes higher, sometimes lower, depending upon inflation, deflation, production and the like. But they will be as low as aggressive competition can make them—and that effort will be lower than any other kind of economic system would provide."

What is true of food is equally true of clothes, furniture, dry goods, hardware and everything else that is sold in America's tens of thousands of retail stores. Nothing conceivable can do as much to protect the consumer as free competition.

From The Eccentric's Point Of View . . .

Detroit is planning to have the 1956 national conventions of both major political parties held there, hoping as a by-product to lure about ten millions of dollars in spending from the delegates. That, indeed, is a small sum compared to what these politicians spend after they get elected.

Blackstrap molasses and bunker fuel oil are said to make a good binder to allow beach sands to get hard enough for heavy military equipment to travel over. At risk of getting a nasty letter from some blackstrap molasses devotee, we're glad to learn the stuff has a value.

Hitting the Nail on the Head



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Someone, in a very cynical mood, said mankind was made of two things—death and taxes. All on our own we are tending this statement to include a third certainty—rummage sales.

Rummage sales come in different seasons and slightly different patterns, but east on west north or south, they are rummage sales. Usually sponsored by church groups they are thorough in their accomplishments. They provide householders an opportunity to dispose of no longer needed items which are far too good to be consigned to the junk heap or rag bag. They give the shopper an opportunity to make money and of untold opportunities for visiting, good shopping and fun.

Locations probably will vary their impact on the high far corners in the south woods or out of place, just as high heeled, silver slippers would be in a mountain area distant from any city and formal dances.

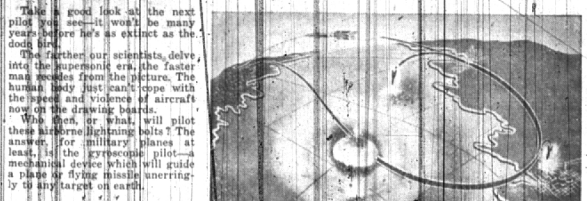
THE GENERAL characteristics are the same, though. One may find fabulous bargains rubbing elbows with what the average person would call "junk".

The "junk" however, is a veritable mine of opportunity in its full bloom. We will remember buying and dusting up a pair of shoes in an uncompleted mission in life. If memory serves us correctly, the old item and the money were ever more wisely invested.

Once home we looked it up. Adults, of course, couldn't see it for

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill



There is good luck at the next pilot you see—it won't be many years before he's as extinct as the dodo.

The further our scientists delve into the superionic era, the faster man needs from the picture. The human body just can't cope with the speed and violence of aircraft now on the drawing boards.

Who then, or what, will pilot these airborne lightning bolts? The answer, for military planes at least, is the gyroscopic pilot—a mechanical device which will guide a plane in flying missile snatching by and target on earth.

IT WILL DO this in any kind of weather, despite any measure of turbulence, and it will not interfere, should shooting the plane out of the sky.

That's the prediction of Arthur V. Sommer, Senior Engineer of the Gyro Section of the Arma Corporation, one of the world's leading manufacturers of high-precision instruments.

The new speed and violence that has been created in conquering the air barrier, and we're already well into the superionic era—has outstripped and outpaced the human ability to pilot the new aircraft.

The military cannot be limited in aircraft development by pilot shortcomings.

AS AN EXAMPLE of these human deficiencies, Sommer cites the crash of two superionic aircraft, traveling at twice the speed of sound coming out of a cloud. They were on a collision course, a mile and a half apart.

Even though the human pilots were looking directly at each other, their nose systems would not operate fast enough for them to see each other before they hit head on.

This he demonstrates that the gyro pilot has the capabilities of the aircraft and the attributes of the human pilot in even now an ever-widening field.

BESIDE PERFORMING the mechanics of flying, the gyroscopic pilot offers a self-contained navigational system. It is possible, says Sommer, to develop a gyro which will take a plane off the ground, fly it to a designated spot at a given altitude, change its course and skip to get it to the target spot, release its war-head and then return to its base. All this, without a pilot.

MILITARILY, the present state of aircraft piloting is restricted to visual flight conditions—even though the eyes are low radar, or radio, or radiation, or any combination of these. The Army engineers say: "These are actual instruments flight conditions, not every day conditions."

"For, while a storm, or a cloud, or smoke, or haze, or night is a barrier to the eyes of a human pilot, so is a radar countermeasure, or a radio jam, or a dummy heat source, an equally formidable blind spot to present day instruments."

A gyroscopic system will take a plane off at a given altitude, change its course and skip to get it to the target area, release its war-head and return to base.

At the superionic speed only the fact that the target is in a particular location. It can dive on any location, release any war-head and be continuously aware of the time of flight to any point on earth.

"The only way one could interfere with better accuracy—without being limited by acceleration—and with complete accuracy."

"The only way one could interfere with our gyro system, short of destroying it, would be to alter the course of the earth," Sommer says.

Translated into piloting, the gyro is precise to keep the aircraft on its course regardless of how fast the plane may go or what stresses and strains it may impose.

What's more, Sommer points out, the gyroscopic pilot will make the aircraft immune to the present-day methods of enemy interference.

TRANSLATED into piloting, the gyro is precise to keep the aircraft on its course regardless of how fast the plane may go or what stresses and strains it may impose.

What's more, Sommer points out, the gyroscopic pilot will make the aircraft immune to the present-day methods of enemy interference.

Translated into piloting, the gyro is precise to keep the aircraft on its course regardless of how fast the plane may go or what stresses and strains it may impose.

Translated into piloting, the gyro is precise to keep the aircraft on its course regardless of how fast the plane may go or what stresses and strains it may impose.

Translated into piloting, the gyro is precise to keep the aircraft on its course regardless of how fast the plane may go or what stresses and strains it may impose.

Translated into piloting, the gyro is precise to keep the aircraft on its course regardless of how fast the plane may go or what stresses and strains it may impose.

Translated into piloting, the gyro is precise to keep the aircraft on its course regardless of how fast the plane may go or what stresses and strains it may impose.

Translated into piloting, the gyro is precise to keep the aircraft on its course regardless of how fast the plane may go or what stresses and strains it may impose.

Translated into piloting, the gyro is precise to keep the aircraft on its course regardless of how fast the plane may go or what stresses and strains it may impose.

Translated into piloting, the gyro is precise to keep the aircraft on its course regardless of how fast the plane may go or what stresses and strains it may impose.

Translated into piloting, the gyro is precise to keep the aircraft on its course regardless of how fast the plane may go or what stresses and strains it may impose.

Translated into piloting, the gyro is precise to keep the aircraft on its course regardless of how fast the plane may go or what stresses and strains it may impose.

Translated into piloting, the gyro is precise to keep the aircraft on its course regardless of how fast the plane may go or what stresses and strains it may impose.

Translated into piloting, the gyro is precise to keep the aircraft on its course regardless of how fast the plane may go or what stresses and strains it may impose.

Translated into piloting, the gyro is precise to keep the aircraft on its course regardless of how fast the plane may go or what stresses and strains it may impose.

Translated into piloting, the gyro is precise to keep the aircraft on its course regardless of how fast the plane may go or what stresses and strains it may impose.

Translated into piloting, the gyro is precise to keep the aircraft on its course regardless of how fast the plane may go or what stresses and strains it may impose.

Translated into piloting, the gyro is precise to keep the aircraft on its course regardless of how fast the plane may go or what stresses and strains it may impose.

SCREENS AND STORM SASH
FLUSH DOORS
• Combination Doors and Windows
• Flush Doors and Windows
• Plywood-Kill Dry Wood
• Woodcraft Co.
1136 Grant MI 4-0424

When Will You Be Sued?
This is the heady of damage suits, when a slip-and-fall can cost you \$12,500, and the curiosity of a neighbor's child may jeopardize you for life. Guard against such catastrophes with a . . .
COMPREHENSIVE PERSONAL LIABILITY POLICY
\$25,000 Protection—\$12.00 a Year
HUGH C. WHITE
MULTIPLE LINE INSURANCE AGENCY
217 Pierce St. Birmingham, Mich.
Bill Roberts
Telephone Midwest 4-3610

Do you worry about forgetting to turn off the tank?
If so, you need an Automatic Electric Water Heater
You'll enjoy the finest hot water service available when you have the right-sized automatic electric water heater. It's worry-free. It works free . . . as well as dependable. Clean. Carefree. Thrifty. . . and durable. Why not take a minute to look into all the conveniences of an automatic electric water heater at your electric appliance dealer's or neighborhood Edison office.
SEE YOUR DEALER or Detroit Edison

The Birmingham Eccentric
Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue.
Telephone Midwest 4-1100
GEORGE R. AVERILL, Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL, Business Manager
GEORGE W. AVERILL, Managing Editor
HAROLD P. BURGER, Advertising Manager
The Eccentric is a member of National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association and University Press Club.
National Advertising Representatives: Weekly Newspaper Representatives, Inc., 1418 Guardian Building, 221 Broadway, Detroit 26, MICH. NEW YORK 10, N.Y.
The Eccentric will publish contributed material providing it has news value. Suggestions are welcome. Any erroneous reflection upon character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric, will be gladly corrected if brought to the publisher's attention.

PLAY IT SAFE!
Wastebasket Is Insurance Against Fire
Clean-up and fire safety go hand in hand. The wastebasket is a signal for the average housewife to start thinking about spring cleaning. This annual job, which is as necessary as it is satisfying, can always be your life, because what you are scrubbing away the past year's dirt you can help make your home fire safe by eliminating rubbish in your fire is most likely to strike.
Add a large metal wastebasket to your equipment and empty it often. In other words, don't just shift things from one place to another—show them out. This applies especially to piles of newspapers, oily rags, and other combustible rubbish in your garage, yard and every room, and about in your home from attic to cellar.
Besides being a safety measure, you'll find it's a time saver, too. Household waste is easier to keep clean.
WHILE YOU'RE throwing things away, be sure you also get rid of gasoline, kerosene or other explosive liquids. It's just as badly enough to have a fire as to have the house.
Now you're ready for a little inspection tour to round out the job. Look over your electrical appliances to be sure they are in good working order and that there are no frayed cords or wires. Check your smoke and fire alarm equipment. If you even have an extinguisher, it may need recharging.
PLAY IT SAFE! Now that you have read this article, you know that you can help maintain fire safety.
BIRMINGHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT
Subdivision Wants Help With Increased Traffic During Golf Tourney
Residents of Birmingham Hills Subdivision adjacent to the Birmingham Country Club see dark days ahead as the club is host to this professional golf tournament this summer.
They have asked Birmingham Hills Subdivision and Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley to form plans which will effectively cope with the extremely heavy traffic during the July 1-8 tournament.
Commissioners said the whole problem of controlling parking and traffic for the safety of residents and visitors would be left to the discretion of Moxley, who has already reached a tentative agreement with area householders.

City To Correct Dump Operations
Birmingham city commissioners have given an administrator the go-ahead sign on cleaning up the rubbish dump on the Walker crest at airport.
The city seeks to abate some of the nuisance that dumping operations have been causing. Troy township residents who live near the dump on the north side of East
Commissioners also agreed that negotiations be started with Troy officials to remove the property to industrial and dedicate a green belt strip along the north and west boundaries of the property to provide a buffer zone between the residential and industrial areas.
CITY MANAGER Donald C. Ebert stated that the city would attempt to keep some property within the proposed green belt strip so that the remainder of the property could be used for industrial purposes.
He added that the land was purchased for \$7,500.
To this City Commissioner Lance Minor added that "after the property is properly taken care of, the should be able to realize \$75,000 on its resale."

Illegal Drains Fate Undecided
City Manager Donald C. Ebert has reported to Birmingham city commissioners that House Bill 248, written to establish a control over, operation and maintenance of city drains, which have been declared illegal since their construction, was declared a third reading in the Michigan House of Representatives.
By an action of Commissioners of the Michigan House of Representatives, Washburne have agreed to rewrite the bill for passage next year.
Meanwhile, locally, the status of illegal drains serving Bloomfield township cannot be determined and further action will be considered in attempting to work jointly with Bloomfield township on sewage disposal problems, Ebert said.

Dearborn Motors Among Donors of I-H Awards
4-H Club members in Michigan will be presenting a series of five 1953 national award programs offering medals of honor, all depending on the Chicago and Chicago Congress next November, and \$300 college scholarships, the state club office has announced.
Included among the programs and donors is Dearborn Motors Corp., which is interested in promoting a better understanding among 4-H members.