

**MYSTERY OF THE COMET**

What Science Knows About Strange Celestial Visitor.

A modest little local brief in the journal of this universe, which a physicist believes to have some limit, even though one astronomer now conceives it to be a thousand times larger than we thought it, might read like this:

"On June 27, the tiny planet, Earth is expecting to see sparks (meteoric showers) from the swish of the 2,000,000-mile tail of the comet, Pons-Winnecke, which will just miss hitting Earth by only 12 million miles."

"Though we are not certain of the exact nature of these 'hairy stars,' astronomers believe comets are made up of small particles, very far from each other surrounded by masses of gas," explains a bulletin from the Washington, D. C., headquarters of the National Geographic Society.

"The main body of a comet varies from a few hundred to a few thousand miles in diameter, and its tail, which makes it as spectacular among heavenly bodies as the tail of the peacock makes him in the bird world, measures from a few million to more than a hundred million miles in length."

"The tails of comets have some peculiar characteristics. They always turn away from the sun, and they increase and decrease with astonishing rapidity, the sun evidently causing them to lengthen enormously. Though in volume than the planets, are deemed to be very small. Scientists tell us that the average density of a comet is but a fraction of that of the air near the earth's surface, and that the density of the extremity of the tail is, of course, very much less."

"This is evident from the fact that these bodies, which are so much larger in volume than the planets, are deflected from their orbits by the planets which are not even disturbed enough by their appearance for any observations to be taken of it. Even when a comet passed through Jupiter's satellite system in 1886 not a moon veered from its course, but the comet totally changed its orbit as a result of the magnetic force exerted. That the substance of comets and their tails is much rarer is further apparent because even the faintest of the visible stars can be seen through them."

"Work associated with the behavior and the nature of comets and their orbits is yet in its infancy, and the knowledge that the spectroscopic reveals regarding their composition is confusing. It seems to say that they are made of hydrocarbon vapor which shines by its own light, but part of their light must be reflected sunlight as the brilliancy of a comet increases as it approaches the sun and diminishes as it passes away."

"The idea that comets are wanderers in space has long ago been given up. Now we know that they belong to our solar system, but their orbits are such large parabolas or ellipses that they sometimes require hundreds of thousands of years to complete a revolution. Occasionally the fascinating Jupiter will lure one of the 'shooting stars' from its straight and narrow path. Like the foolish moth it will revolve around the greater light and apparently for a brief while become a part of our system, only to pursue its own way after discovering the vanity of its affection. When the comet chances to cross the orbit of the earth we experience a meteoric shower. This is what we are told is to happen to us as the result of the visit of Pons-Winnecke."

"Sometimes Jupiter reduces them entirely to subjection and they stay on with that planet as part of its numerous and expansive family. They then circulate in elliptical orbits around their conqueror and generally dissipate their substance along their tails until they become entirely invisible."

"The tail of a comet in all its gorgeousness is not a mere appendage. If it were, it would not long stand the wear and tear that hurtling through space would give such a thin mass of matter, nor could it be flipped from one side to the other as it is the case when the body passes in the neighborhood of the sun. It must be made largely of dissipating vapor, never the

same from second to second, volatilizing or evaporating from the heart of the sun, to shift like the smoke in a chimney with the outside influences which control it."

"All of us remember Halley's comet because it appeared in all its noted brilliancy in 1910 on its 75-year tour of the skies in harmony with the astronomers' predictions concerning it. One of the most famous comets in history is that of 1680, by which Newton proved that comets move under the influence of the gravitation of the sun; it is believed to be the one which appeared shortly after Julius Caesar was murdered, as well as the comet which caused excitement in 531 and in 1106. If Halley's suspicions be confirmed that this is the same comet with a 575-year period, our posterity will hail it in 2255."

**Convicted on Four Counts.**

Charleston, June 14.—A verdict of guilty was returned against Dr. M. A. Woods of Columbia, doing business as the Baltimore Dental parlors, this afternoon in federal court, on an indictment in four counts for violating the Harrison narcotic act. The trial began yesterday afternoon and ably conducted, Assistant District Attorney Waring representing the government, and Messrs. Graydon and Clifton, the defendant. Judge Smith will not impose sentence until after a motion for a new trial is heard tomorrow. The defendant is under bond of \$2,500. Retiring with the case shortly before 6 o'clock the jury reached a decision by 6:45 o'clock. It was charged by the government that Dr. Woods sold cocaine to addicts and also had an agent John (alias Fred) Stanton, a witness for the United States.

Four marked \$5 bills played an important part in the case, these being used by government agents to buy "dope" with, and two were found later in Stanton's possession and two in the possession of the defendant, alleged to have been paid him for boxes of the drug. J. L. Brooks and C. F. Duncan testified they had bought cocaine from Dr. Woods and Stanton stated he had sold the drug as defendant's agent.

Women are eligible for election to the constitutional assembly in Palestine.

**University of South Carolina Entrance Examinations.**

Entrance examinations to the University of South Carolina will be held by the County Superintendent of Education at the County Court House Friday, July 8, 1921, at 9 a. m.

The University offers varied courses of study in science, literature, history, law and business. The expenses are moderate and many opportunities for self-support are afforded. Scholarships are available. Military training is compulsory for Freshmen and Sophomores. Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

For full particulars write to: President W. S. Currell, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S. C. June 3-10-24

**TAX ON THE BIG FIGHT**  
Government Will Get More than Carpenter or Dempsey.

Uncle Sam never drew on a boxing glove in his life, but he'll make more money than Jack Dempsey, Georges Carpentier or Tex Rickard July 2.

Figures which will doubtless bring sleepless nights to Dempsey's manager, Jack Kearnes and cause Francois Descamps, manager of Carpentier, more worry than a newspaper photographer, were quoted today by internal revenue officials.

Dempsey's income tax for \$300,000 approximately what he will receive for the battle will amount to \$161,270. Carpentier's toll, when exemptions for his wife and child are subtracted, will total a modest \$93,334.

That makes the score on the division of the purse read: United States government \$254,004; boxers, \$245,486, interesting news to Mr. Average American Citizen, who, according to the revenue officials, pays a tax on an annual income between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

The marked difference between the taxes of the boxers is due to the surtax on the difference between \$300,000 and \$200,000.

Government profits on the bout also include the 10 per cent admission tax, which will amount to approximately \$100,000. The state of New Jersey will exact a like sum.

Promoter Tex Rickard, who profits may be \$100,000, will be taxed an amount which will bring the total government revenue from the encounter to considerably more than \$500,000 the richest sporting plum in history.

**Kills Wife and Self.**

Orangeburg, June 14.—D. Preston Berry, a young farmer of the Neeses section, Sunday night or Monday morning shot and instantly killed his wife and then committed suicide by firing a bullet through his brain.

It is alleged that Berry was enraged through jealousy and shot his wife probably early Monday morning. The father and mother were found early Monday morning by a seven year old daughter, the mother lying as asleep in the bed, her baby in her arms, with a bullet through her temple and the father sprawled out upon the floor with a pistol ball through his brain. Only two unloaded shells were found in the pistol, and it was the pistol of D. P. Berry. The shooting created quite a stir in that community, and one Spires was arrested, but the authorities generally believe that Berry shot and killed his wife and then took his own life. They were white people of good standing in their community. The shooting took place about 15 miles from Orangeburg just out of the town of Neeses.

At Warsaw, Indiana, last Friday, Virgil Decker, 18-year-old farmer boy, was found guilty of murder in the first degree in connection with the death of Leroy Lovett, his associate by a jury in circuit court. He was sentenced to life imprisonment. The jury was out less than three hours. Young Decker showed no emotion when the verdict was read to the court or when sentence was passed. Decker was accused of murdering Lovett, said to have been his "double," as the outcome of an alleged conspiracy between members of the Decker family to kill Lovett, claim his body as that of Decker and collect \$24,000 in life insurance. The Decker case is of the strangest ever coming to the attention of the Indiana authorities. Saturday night, March 12, a young man was found in a dying condition on a railroad crossing near Mauborn, Ind. He died without regaining consciousness. The body was identified as that of Virgil Decker by members of the Decker family. The following Monday the body was identified by Samuel Lovett of Elkhart, Ind., as that of his son, Leroy, and Tuesday night Virgil Decker was arrested at the home of his uncle in Marion, Ind. Young Decker was brought to Warsaw where he was lodged in jail, and a few days later the Kosciusko county grand jury indicted him with his two brothers, Calvin and Fred Decker, for the murder of young Lovett. The other members of the Decker family are in jail awaiting trial the date of which has not been set.

Mrs. Ollie B. Mackan, who for more than twenty years has been the owner and publisher of a newspaper in Plain City, O., has disposed of the property and retired from active business.

When a Turkish girl is of marriageable age, that is, after she has reached the age of 11, the parents make her marriage a business proposition, and the highest bidder draws the prize.

**Winthrop College. SCHOLARSHIP AND ENTRANCE EXAMINATION**

The examination for the award of vacant Scholarships in Winthrop College and for admission of new students will be held at the County Court House on Friday, July 1, at 9 a. m. Applicants must not be less than sixteen years of age. When Scholarships are vacant after July 1 they will be awarded to those making the highest average at this examination, provided they meet the conditions governing the award. Applicants for Scholarships should write to President Johnson before the examination for Scholarship examination blanks. Scholarships are worth \$100 and free tuition. The next session will open September 14th, 1921. For further information and catalogue address Pres. D. B. Johnson, Rock Hill, S. C.

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Rear Admiral Sims was ordered home from London Saturday by Secretary Denby as a result of his recent attacking Sinn Fein sympathizers in the United States. The secretary explained that he had received no reply from the officer in response to his message inquiring if press despatches had quoted correctly excerpts from the speech, and had decided to revoke the remainder of the admiral's leave and ordered him to report here immediately. The order, however, was not expected to expedite Admiral Sims' return from England, as he had already planned to return on the liner Olympic, which sails tomorrow, and is the first available ship for passage. Admirable Sims had announced that he would sail for home from England on June 15. He was granted leave of absence to go abroad to receive a degree from an English university. The naval secretary's cablegram, sent Saturday to the officer read: "Remainder your leave revoked. You will return to the United States immediately and report in person to the secretary of navy. Acknowledge."

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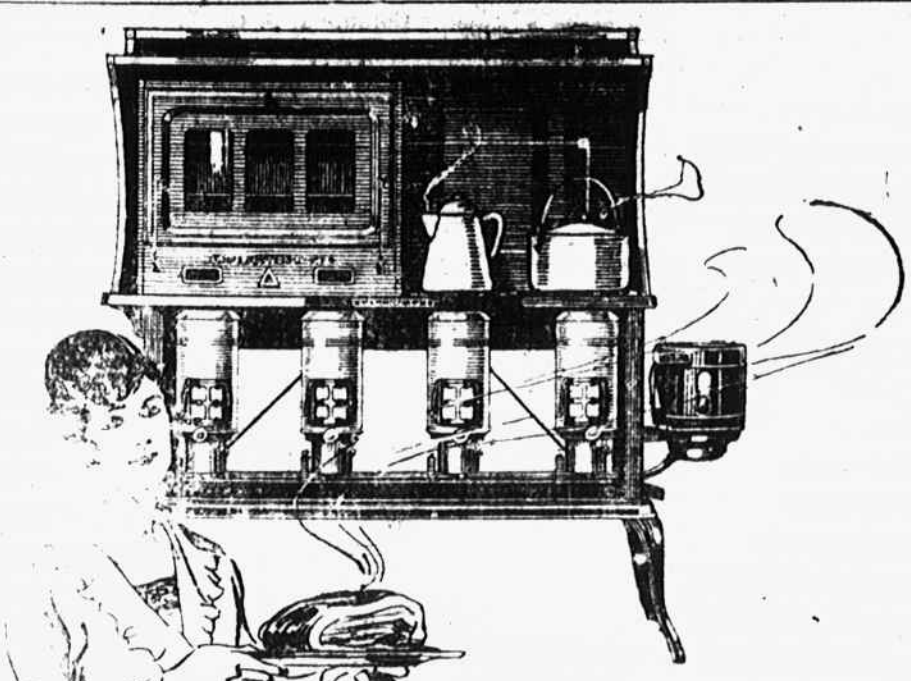
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