

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 1922

DRIFT OF STARS CHANGES FORM OF BIG DIPPER

Five of Its Brightest Lights
are Speeding to Join the Big
Bear Cluster, Where They
Really Belong.

By Isabel M. Lewis of United States
Naval Observatory.

The Big Dipper, the bright design in even stars, which has such a cooling suggestion these hot nights, is, like many similar things, looked at with unceasing interest. Every one in the northern hemisphere, from spooning youth to tired old age, knows this bright star group. There are not so many, however, that know that five of these steady-looking bright lights are speeding away from the others, and that these five belong to a great moving cluster of stars known as the Ursa Major or Big Bear cluster.

This cluster, which consists of at least thirteen stars, has the form of a disk about fifteen light years in thickness and 150 light years in diameter. It is hard to realize what that means. A light year is the distance that light travels in one year. The velocity of light is practically instantaneous, 186,000 miles a second. In one day there are 86,400 seconds. Figure for yourself how far light travels in 180 years; that is the diameter of the Big Bear.

Sirius, the brightest star in the heavens, which is only eight and a half light years from the solar system, is also a member of this cluster, as is also Beta Aurigae, the bright star in the constellation of Auriga, which is visible in the winter to the north of Orion. This star is 130 light years distant, and the five stars in the Big Dipper, which are members of the cluster, are about seventy-five light years distant from the earth. It may seem strange that stars so widely separated as the stars in the Big Dipper, Sirius and Beta Aurigae, should all be members of one connected group, but the apparently great separation of certain members of the cluster is an effect of the nearness of the solar system to the principal plane of the cluster. If instead of being almost in the midst of this cluster we were at a distance of several hundred light years from it, it would appear to us as a small compact group of faint stars, similar in appearance to the Pleiades or the V-shaped group of the Hyades in Taurus.

Dipper Is Disintegrating.
The star at the end of the handle of the Big Dipper and the star furthest from it in the bowl are not members of this cluster, and as they are moving in another direction through space the distinctive form of the Big Dipper will in time be lost. But that fact need not greatly disturb us, for many centuries will pass before star-drift will destroy our long-cherished Big Dipper. Many generations to come will admire this heirloom of the heavens studied with celestial gems that have been handed down to the present generations from the early days of recorded history, just as we admire it today untroubled by time.

The stars in the bowl of the Big Dipper form the body and the stars in the handle form the tail of Ursa Major, the Greater Bear. The head and paws of the bear are formed by faint stars lying to the west and south of the seven bright stars. Our Big Dipper, then, is but a portion of the far more extensive constellation of Ursa Major, and our Little Dipper, with the pole-star, Polaris, at the end of the handle, similarly outlines the body and tail of Ursa Minor, the Lesser Bear. Both of these constellations we will now find conspicuously in view in the early evening in the north and northwest.

At this time of year when so many are camping out or hiking in unfamiliar regions it is well to bear in mind a fact which should be well known to everyone, that the Pointers of the Big Dipper, as the two stars in the bowl farthest from the handle are called, point infallibly to the true north. An imaginary line through these two stars extended upward from the bowl to a distance about equal to the length of the Big Dipper brings us to the pole-star at the end of the handle of the Little Dipper. Any one abroad at night in an unfamiliar country might find it of great service to have these friendly guides among the stars.

MAY "WASH" SUBWAY AIR.

Interborough and B. R. T. Considering New Device to Cleanse Tubes.

New York, Aug. 11.—Cleaner subways, in which all the dust is removed twice a day and the very air is "washed," may be made possible by a new device which is now being considered by both the Interborough and the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company.

The device is a huge vacuum cleaner mounted on a subway truck powered to move through the tunnels at traffic speed. Walter I. Smith and Algernon Burnette, the inventors, said that the suction pumps would create a whirlwind in the tunnel which would pick up all the refuse and draw it into a container on a car following the cleaner. The air in the tunnel would also pass through a fumigator and cleaner.

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TO SLEEP OVER DESERT.

Dr. Harrison Will Use a Motorcycle in Arabia.

Dr. Paul Wilberforce Harrison, a medical missionary of the Reformed Church in Beirut, Arabia, who is in the U. S. on furlough, will change entirely his manner of travel when he gets back to the Arabian desert.

Dr. Harrison has ordered a special motorcycle to be made with broad tires and high power so that he can penetrate the desert rapidly. He expects to make the distance from Beirut to Riyadh, which is 250 miles, within twenty-four hours, instead of taking ten to fourteen days on camel back for this trip, as he has been doing until now.

The physician is a great friend of the ruling Sheikh of the whole of the interior of Arabia, who has now been made the Sultan of Najd. The new Sultan is the rival of the King of the Hijaz, who helped the British in their recovery of Palestine.

The Sultan is very anxious that Dr. Harrison should establish a hospital in his capital, which is Riyadh. This is 200 miles inland from the Persian Gulf. Friends of Dr. Harrison in New York and vicinity are aiding him in raising money for this and for a chain of hospitals throughout the desert.

The missionary is spending his furlough taking a post graduate course in Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

The physician, who is an honor graduate of Johns Hopkins, was invited to become a member of its staff, but he preferred to continue his work in the Arabian desert, where he has gained experience in certain diseases which by study and treatment has enabled him to make what is considered a real contribution to medical knowledge.

In recognition of this fact Dr. Harrison was this year elected a member of the American College of Surgeons.

JOE LEVY 2D AVENUE

MAYOR—UNDER PROTEST

Joseph Madden Will Get Re-count After Controversy Over Silk Shirts and Limousines.

(New York Evening Post)
Joe Levy, "the Duke of Essex street," is again Mayor of Second Avenue—under protest. For a recount has been promised to the supporters of Joseph Madden, who contend that he was the man elected.

The election, which was held in Levy's office, 21 Second Avenue, yesterday, gave Levy sixty-seven votes against sixty-four for Madden.

Madden, whose nom de ballot was given as "Yussel Madinski," charged that Levy wore silk shirts, owned an automobile—or, rather, a limousine—and sported diamonds on his fingers.

Such a charge might have won for Madden had not Levy mounted the desk, flung back his coat, and displayed a brand-new flannel shirt. He also exhibited fingers that were ringless.

Madden's charge that he lived in a "mansion" at Long Beach, Levy asserted, was false. It was only a country home.

"I don't travel in limousines, either," continued Levy. "I came all the way from Long Beach in a taxi."

That, with the flannel shirt, settled it. The voters crowded to the polls reassured concerning Levy's democratic instincts. As the excited knots of Madden and Levy henchmen moved out of the office, Levy's poetic acceptance of their mandate still echoing in their ears—"Take me never out of Essex to the country with the trees, where there ain't no pleasant noises on a garbage-scented breeze!"—the mayor under protest jumped off the desk with the cry that "eleven" of my lawbooks have been taken.

"Eleven," sneered Madden. "Aw, take a recount."

READS SUICIDES; ENDS LIFE.

Brother Lays Misanthropic's Death to Nervous Mania.

New York, Aug. 11.—A morbid condition of the mind, which, according to his brother, was due to the constant study of suicide cases, caused Samuel Fisher, a retired merchant of 16 East Ninety-sixth street, to kill himself this week.

Fisher, who was unmarried and lived with his brother's family, made a fortune in the pearl button business. He suffered a nervous breakdown two years ago and attempted to commit suicide by cutting his throat. He has been under the care of a doctor since that time.

The other morning Fisher arose early, telling his brother, Henry, that he was going to dress and go for a walk. About 8 o'clock Henry went into the bathroom and found his brother lying on the floor with a bullet wound in his head and a revolver beside him.

POLICE DOG AN "OFFICER?"

First Case for Interference With One to be Tried in Albany.

Albany, N. Y., Aug. 11.—Interference with a police dog in discharge of its duties is an unlawful act, according to a charge which Anthony Martino, one of two brothers arrested following recent strike disorders at the Ravena yards of the West Shore Railroad near here, will face at a hearing before Police Justice William H. Sheer.

The charge unique in criminal procedure, is declared here to be the first brought since the employment of dogs as auxiliaries to police.

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According to the complaint, Martino is accused of throwing a brick at a police dog which was trailing men suspected of firing shots that wounded two officers guarding railroad property in the Ravena yards. Samuel Martino, the brother, is charged with discharging firearms in public.



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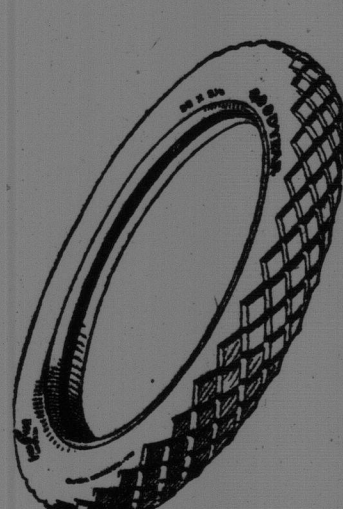


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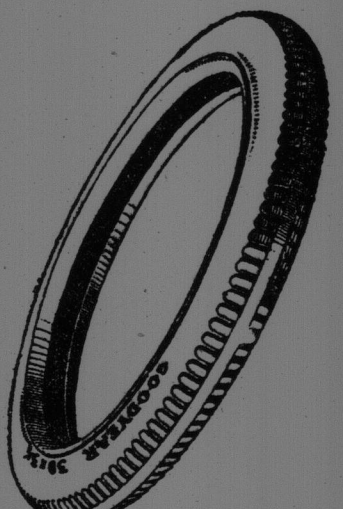
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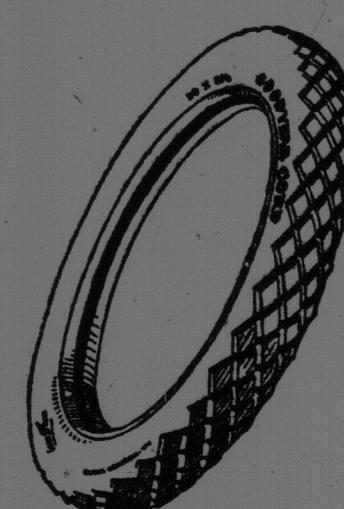
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