

ASTROLOGER IS THOUSANDS OF YEARS 'OFF' KEY

'Seers' Fail to Remember That Heavens Have Changed Greatly.

(This is the first of a series of articles written for The Times by Science Service, "debunking" astrology.)

By Science Service
The "astrologer" who forecasts what is going to happen to you, as a result of your having been born under the sign of the crab, the scorpion, the bull, or some other animal, fails to take into account one rather important little detail. The stars have moved. The constellations are not where they used to be.

Therefore, when the "astrologer" proclaims what is in store for a man born at a certain time on a particular date of our era, he is a few thousand years too late. He is dealing with the heavens as they were in the time of old King Tut, or maybe even Old King Cole, that merry old soul!

The heavens have changed, but not the astrologers.

What the Zodiac

Fundamental in astrology is the position of the sun and planets at the time of the subject's birth. Their position is considered among the signs of the zodiac. Perhaps you have seen these signs represented in a patent medicine advertisement, surrounding an unclothed, and partly dissected, human figure, with lines pointing to the part of the body that each sign is supposed to control.

The zodiac means "the circle of animals." It is a band of sixteen degrees wide in the sky, and through it the sun and moon and planets always move. All the constellations that form it, except one, are names of living creatures, hence the origin of its name.

In order, the constellations are: Aries, the ram; Taurus, the bull; Gemini, the twins; Cancer, the crab; Leo, the lion; Virgo, the virgin; Libra, the scales; Scorpio, the scorpion; Sagittarius, the archer; Aquarius, the water bearer, and Pisces, the fishes.

Date Back to Babylon

Many of these names date from the time of the Babylonians, three or four thousand years ago. Then, of course, the "sign" of Aries, for instance, was just the same as the constellation. But today this is not the case. The sign of Aries now is in the next-door constellation of Pisces.

This is because of a slow sliding of all the constellations around the zodiac, an effect which the astronomer calls "precession." In 25,800 years they make a complete circuit. Therefore, sometime around the year 23,000, signs and constellations once more will be together.

Only by that time another motion, of the stars among themselves, so will distort the constellations that they will look very different from what they do today.

The modern astrologer talks glibly about planetary vibrations joining with the vibrations of the stars, and so producing an effect on a person born at a certain moment. But what he considers is merely the sign that a planet, not the constellation, is in.

Behind His Predecessors

If this "science" has any real claim to that title, it certainly would be the stars among which the planet is seen, not its position among signs that now are purely arbitrary.

In this respect, incidentally, the modern astrologer is not as progressive as his Babylonian predecessor. A couple of thousand years before the study flourished in Babylon, the constellation Taurus marked what is now the sign of Aries and the constellation of Pisces.

The Egyptian astrologer began his zodiac with Taurus. So, even though the Babylonian astrologer was no more able really to predict the future from the stars, he at least was consistent enough to consider the heavens as they were at that time. As much can not be said for his modern successor.

Gone, but Not Forgotten

Automobiles reported to police as stolen belong to:
W. M. Jackson, 4636 Broadway, Buick coupe, '28-190 (1930), from Technical high school.
R. T. Riley, 2712 North Capitol avenue, Buick sedan, '24-281 (1930), from North and Agnes street.

BACK HOME AGAIN

Stolen automobiles recovered by police belong to:
Ray Hirst, 535 South Senate avenue, Chevrolet sedan, found at Wyoming and West streets.
Ford coupe, no license, found at Merrill street and Virginia avenue.
Oakland sedan, no license, no certificate of title, found in alley near Virginia avenue and McCarty street.
Ford sedan, no license, no certificate of title, found in alley near Virginia avenue and McCarty street.

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Maybe he had a little spring training of his own to do. Anyhow, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, pictured here as he arrived at Bellair, Fla., the other day, probably was the first representative of major league baseball to appear in the south.

The national pastime's high commissioner looks strikingly fit in this photo.



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APPEAL BRINGS DOUBLED TERM IN DRUNK CASE

'Hard-Boiled' Attitude Is Adopted by Baker in Night Sessions.

Nocturnal visitors in criminal court have found that "hard boiled" is the slogan of Judge Frank P. Baker.

In fact, so severe is Baker's judicial attitude that James Oliver, 22 West Vermont street, probably wished he'd never been in the courtroom.

Monday night, while hundreds of "night owls" crammed the courtroom, Oliver went on trial to appeal a thirty-day jail sentence given him recently in a criminal municipal court. He was found guilty of assault and battery and of being drunk when he ran an auto into the curb on West New York street, "looking for a fight," Baker found. Oliver's appeal proved unfortu-

'FATE' ESSAYS TO WIN CASH PRIZES

"Kismet," the title of Otis Skinner's talking picture coming to the Circle theater Saturday, Jan. 31, is the Mohammedan designation for fate. The picture deals with the part fate plays in the life of a beggar in the eighth century Bagdad. He is elevated to power, charged with murder, freed, returned to begging, and sees his daughter married to the caliph in a single day.

In conjunction with the presentation of "Kismet," the Circle is acting as sponsor for a contest with \$50 in cash and forty theater tickets as prizes for the best essays on "The Part Fate Has Played in My Life." The essays are to be brief, not more than a hundred words in length. They are to be true, of course.

mate. Judge Baker "doubled the ante."

"Sixty days in jail for this man," Baker said, adding:

"Any drunken driver who isn't satisfied with thirty days ought to have a lesson." Baker fined Oliver \$25 on the drunken driving charge. In addition to flogging drunken drivers, Baker found a crow to pick

Starting Tuesday, the best essay received each day will be printed. Additional prize essays will be printed Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Each essay printed will win for its author \$10 in cash. The second best essay each day will win \$2.50 in cash as consolation prize. The next five essays of merit each day will win two guest tickets to the Circle for the showing of "Kismet," starting Saturday.

The Times will be sole judge of the essays. No correspondence will be carried on concerning the choice of winning essays. Prizes will be awarded each day to winners. Those who wish prizes mailed to them in the event of winning should indicate this when sending in essay.

with attorneys who ask repeated delays in criminal trials.

When Walter Pritchard, attorney, asked for a continuance for Ray Caldwell, 34, of 1857 College avenue, an alleged bandit, Baker declared:

"This court absolutely will not permit reasonless delays in criminal cases. When a case is set for trial in this court it will be tried, and that goes for everybody," Baker said.

'TAX HOLIDAY' PLEA SOUNDED BY M'WHIRTER

'Let Business Get on Its Feet,' City Man Asks in Radio Address.

"Keep your hands off the present tax laws and give business a chance to get on its feet," was the warning sounded Monday night to the forty-four state legislatures now in session or soon to convene, by Felix McWhirter, Indianapolis banker, in an address over the National Broadcasting Company network.

"Let us be sure we build no war memorials when we really need sewers," continued McWhirter, president of the Peoples State bank, in outlining the effect of public expenditures on taxation and the latter's correlating effect on business recovery.

"This is an appropriate time to look critically at any proposed changes in our revenue laws with the air literally charged with earnest talk of sales taxes, extension of

state income taxes and a host of other pretty pills for our economic disorders," McWhirter declared.

"Recall the business unrest ascribed to the drawn-out consideration of the tariff law, without comment on what its effect ultimately may be. Tinkering with the tariff law made business uncertain and hesitant. Similarly, tinkering with our tax system makes business men nervous and jumpy."

"These legislatures can make one positive and emergency contribution by doing nothing about revenue laws and letting business, harassed by present taxes, be free at this critical time, from the fear of new ones."

"I don't seek your sympathy for the 'poor billion dollar corporation,' but remember that its tax payments as well as those of the smallest independent enterprise and of all business, come from the same pocket, the same fund of profits, as do wages, salaries and dividends."

"If legislatures must do anything, let them concentrate on spending less and improving our spending methods of government. Thus they could hold forth to business and taxpayers generally the assurance that, although taxes now may be unreasonably high, the day definitely is on the way when elimination of waste and extravagance will permit tax reduction without impairment of efficiency."

"Instead of borrowing prosperity from our grandchildren by building

unnecessary public works, instead of delaying business recovery by quarreling over how we will raise new taxes, rather let us employ the method of less and wiser spending of public funds which will make new taxes and talk of new taxes unnecessary," he concluded.

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The advice of your physician is: Keep out of doors, in the open air, breathe deeply; take plenty of exercise in the mellow sunshine, and have a periodic check-up on the health of your body.



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