



FIREMEN SIFT THROUGH RUINS OF RAZED OFFICE.

### Georgetown Firm's Office Up in Smoke

An office on a three bay garage rented by Canadian Industrial Materials Express of Georgetown was destroyed by fire last week. The fire was discovered at about 11:30 last Tuesday night. Action firefighters arrived at the Highway 25 site within a few minutes of the call but were too late to save the office. It was of frame construction and attached to the cement block

garage. Damage was estimated at \$1,500 by the owner, Neil Charette of RR4 Acton, but that was for the structure only.

Desks, chairs, typewriters and a telex machine were also destroyed in the fire. Firefighters were on the scene a little over an hour.

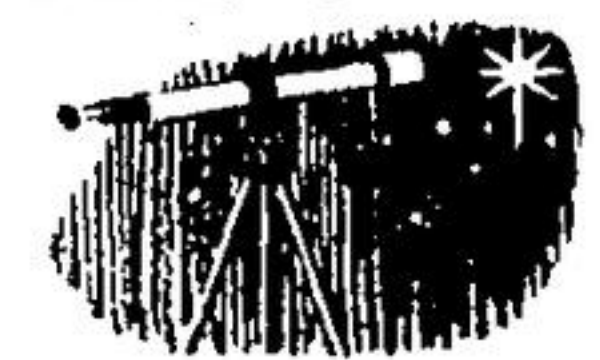
### Astronomers' View of the Star of Bethlehem

According to an astronomer of note, who is also an academician, there are four possible hypotheses which have evolved out of the astronomical features of the Star of Bethlehem. In essence here are his scholarly observations: A very great meteor must have appeared, and it seemed to fall toward the eastern horizon over the city of Bethlehem. Since a meteor is a very transient phenomenon, lasting at most only a few seconds, it is quite local in character. If it were large enough to attract the ordinary observer over any considerable area, its place of contact with the earth could still be identified and become an historic shrine.

The second possibility to consider is that a comet appeared in the sky. A great comet could command the attention of all the inhabitants of the eastern world, as it existed at the time. Comets last for days and have been known to be so dazzling as to be visible even in daylight. Such a comet would be on record, even in those days. As a matter of fact, the Chinese recorded such a comet in the year 4 B.C., and record that it was visible sometime from February to April. Even with some variance in the seasons, there seems to be more than mere coincidence here.

The third possibility is that of a new star. An extraordinary phenomenon, its occurrence is very rare. The year 1572 is notable as the year when a

famous nova was discovered. In 1604 Kepler at age 33 observed a similar happening. So impressed by the apparition, "in triumphal pomp" Kessler wrote three papers on the identification of the year of Christ's Birth. Since then at least 20 brilliant new stars have appeared; the 20th century records five of the most brilliant. Scholars venture to suggest that the Star of Bethlehem may have been one of the temporary stars.



The fourth projection is that of conjunction or coming together of two or more well-known planets. It is possible to compute these times as far back in history as we desire. If any three of the conspicuous naked-eye planets, Saturn, Jupiter, Mars and Venus, should come together it would create an event of historic importance. Such an event evidently occurred in the year 7-6 B.C. with Jupiter, Saturn and Mars in conjunction.

### A Spanish Indian Miracle Play

Los Pastores, a Spanish Indian play, is given in Texas each year. It is given by everyday people who work for a living, and find time to act at odd hours.

The rehearsals take place secretly in someone's backyard...and the play is performed in someone's backyard, unpublicized, unheralded. The objective is that no one shall see the miracle play just from mere curiosity; spirituality is the raison d'être.

Introduced into Mexico by Spanish monks, it is given from Christmas to Candlemas by an amateur group gathered by invitation from house to house.

The scene: at one end of the yard an altar of wood covered with black sateen, the background for the manger scene. On the steps, the

sizes and shapes. Opposite this scene, at the other end of the yard is a tent with volcanoes, devils, fire. From it "live devils" emerge. When the play begins, a girl comes out, dressed as an angel, and recites. Then come shepherds, in pink coats with tinsel braid, a beaded valise over the shoulder, hung on broad red ribbon. The shepherds carry gaily ornate staves, and chant a song which goes on and on. Behind them, Ermitano, which as his name suggests, is a hermit; he is a comic character, and represents the good of the



enchant Gabriel accompanies him. Behind him come seven devils, six in sequined black and masks of animals, and then Satan in bright red; all wear sparklers in their caps. There is no formal end to the performance. The devils are vanquished, and the shepherds kiss the Child. A wild Indian enters and a fight ensues. He is overcome, and he kisses the Child. Then all solemnly and slowly approach the altar and pay respects to the Child. Candy and food are offered.



family's prize possessions, while above ceilings are decked with rose-entwined crepe paper. In the center of the lowest step is the Christ Child, a life-size doll, placed on a platter of colorful candles; nearby are creatures of the Manger, of odd

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