

TELLS FACTS ABOUT BRIGHTEST STAR

SIRIUS, IN ORION GROUP

Best Known With Exception of Pole Star; Is 500,000 Times As Far Away As Sun, Has Dim Consort

Professor Philip Fox of Dearborn Observatory of Northwestern University, from Station WMAQ discussed recently "The Most Interesting Star in the Sky, Sirius," and in doing so brought out the fact that this star's mass and luminosity would indicate the formation of a substance, unknown to earthly mortals, weighing a ton for each cubic inch. Dr. Fox, who is unusually well known in America for original research work in astronomy, said that a derick would probably be required to hoist a thimbleful of the substance. The fact that the faint companion-star of Sirius was discovered by a Northwestern University savant in 1862 also was mentioned. In his address, Professor Fox said in part as follows:

Brightest of Stars
"The best known star in the sky with the exception of the Pole star is probably Sirius, the Dog star, and this because it is the brightest star in the whole sky. At this time of the year it can be seen in the early evening in the southeastern sky just to the east of the constellation of Orion. It crosses the meridian at about nine o'clock.

"Sirius is not only the brightest star but it is one of the nearest, being only 8 1/2 years distant, 500,000 times as far as the sun. It was also one of the first stars which was seen to be moving among its fellows, to have proper motion. Dearborn Observatory of Northwestern University has a peculiar interest in Sirius, because it was in testing the 18 1/4-inch lens of our observatory in 1862 that the faint companion star was first seen—a companion whose presence had been previously demonstrated by the vagaries of proper motion of Sirius. The two stars, the brilliant Sirius and its faint companion are in orbital motion about each other within a period of half a century. In such a double star where the distance

and orbits are known, it is possible to determine the masses and they turn out to be for Sirius about twice that of our sun, and for the companion about equal to our sun.

Vary in Brightness
"Later observations have revealed the type of spectrum and therefore the surface temperature. From all this has arisen the difficult problem of accounting for the difference in luminosity for the two components so nearly comparable in mass and temperature. For stars vary in brightness because of distance, temperature, and size. With distance and temperature fixed, the size could be approximately determined and it came out that the faint companion was about three times that of the earth, say 1-50 the diameter of the sun. Then how account for its great mass? Only by assigning to it the amazing density of about 55,000 times that of water, about 10,000 times the mean density of the earth. Recent theoretical work by Eddington of England, and observations by Adams of the Mt. Wilson observatory, seem to confirm this astounding figure.

Would Weigh Ton
"A cubic inch of that star brought here unchanged to the surface of the earth would weigh almost exactly a ton. Derricks would be required to move a thimble-full. When we think that platinum, our densest material, is only about 20 times that of water we realize that in this star we have a kind of matter, a construction of the atoms, with which we have no terrestrial counterpart. The stars furnish crucibles where temperatures exist which are unapproachable on the earth. The theory is that under conditions which obtain in the interior of the star, the atoms are stripped of some of their electrons and permit of packing, far beyond the degree with which we are familiar in matter under ordinary conditions.

"A solution of the problem of accounting for the low luminosity of this massive object has then led to a conclusion that seems unescapable, introducing us to a form of matter of almost unthinkable density and has made this star the most interesting of all the starry host."

People who think the prices of merchandise are far too high, might try reading the advertisements of special bargains in The Press.

These folks who think the church is a failure, may have been trying to hire a \$5,000 minister for \$2,000.

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT INCREASED LAST YEAR

Gained Seven Per Cent in U. S. In 1924-25 School Year, Reports Show

College enrollment for the United States gains seven per cent during the school year 1924-25 according to statistics gathered by Raymond Walters, dean of Swarthmore college from 184 colleges and universities. The rate of increase is comparable with the general rate of college expansion since the close of the World war and indicates that the higher institutions of learning are steadily growing. The University of California with its two branches again takes the lead with 16,294 students, while Columbia is second with 11,727. Including part time as well as regular students, however, Columbia leads with the University of California second.

Illinois is third in full time enrollment with 11,212 students. Minnesota is fourth with 10,170 students. Michigan is fifth and Ohio sixth in full time enrollment.

The total enrollments of others among the twenty-five largest universities are as follows:

Chicago, 12,950; Illinois, 12,785; Michigan, 12,181; Wisconsin, 11,371; Ohio State, 10,725; Pittsburg, 10,465; Harvard, 10,396; Boston, 9,687; Northwestern, 8,712; Nebraska, 8,543; Washington, 8,138; Cincinnati, 7,738; Cornell, 7,420; Texas, 7,202; Southern California, 7,168; University of Iowa, 6,915; Syracuse, 6,479; Colorado, 6,155; Oklahoma, 5,613.

The five largest exclusive women's colleges are reported as follows: Smith, 2,153; Wellesley, 1,571; Vassar, 1,149; Goucher, 1,057, and Mount Holyoke, 995.

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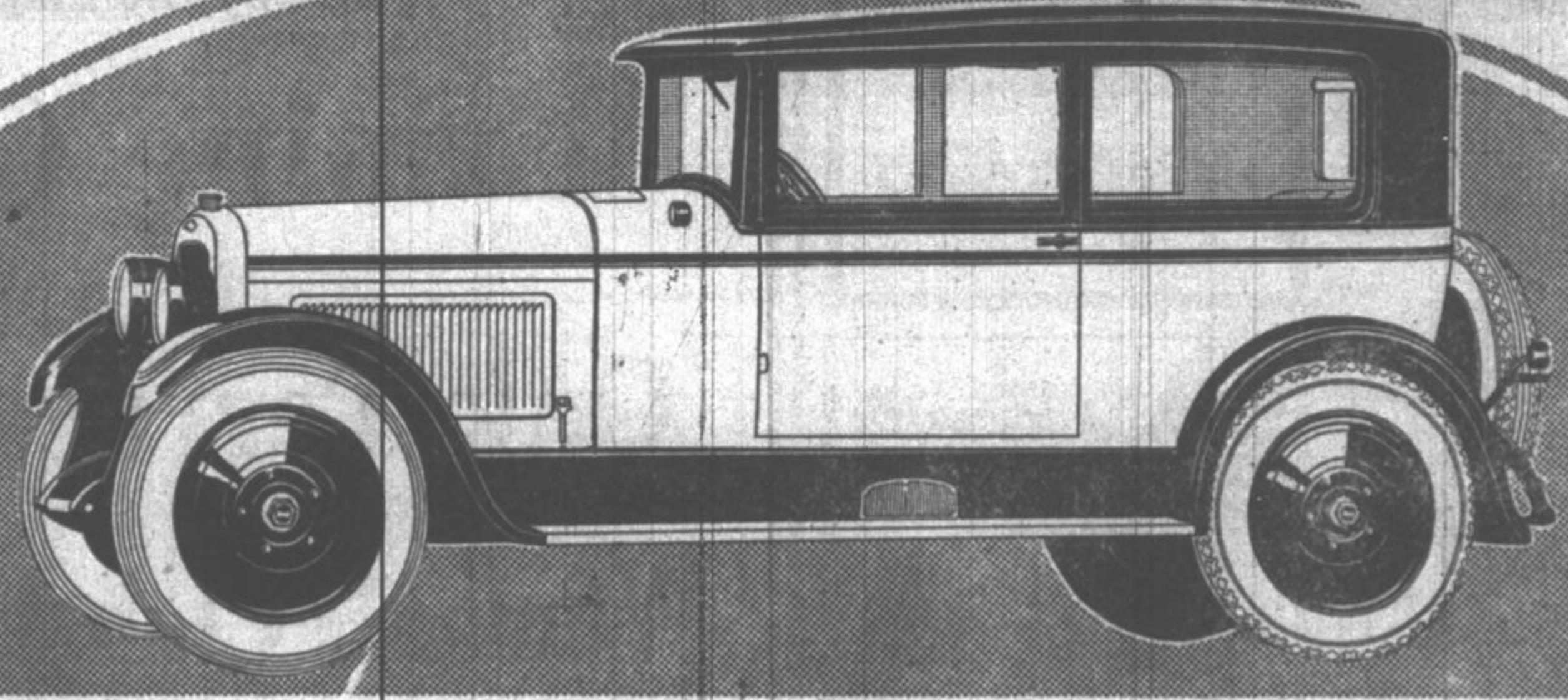
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