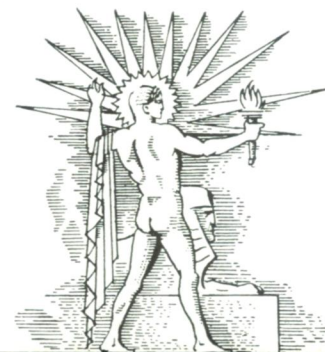
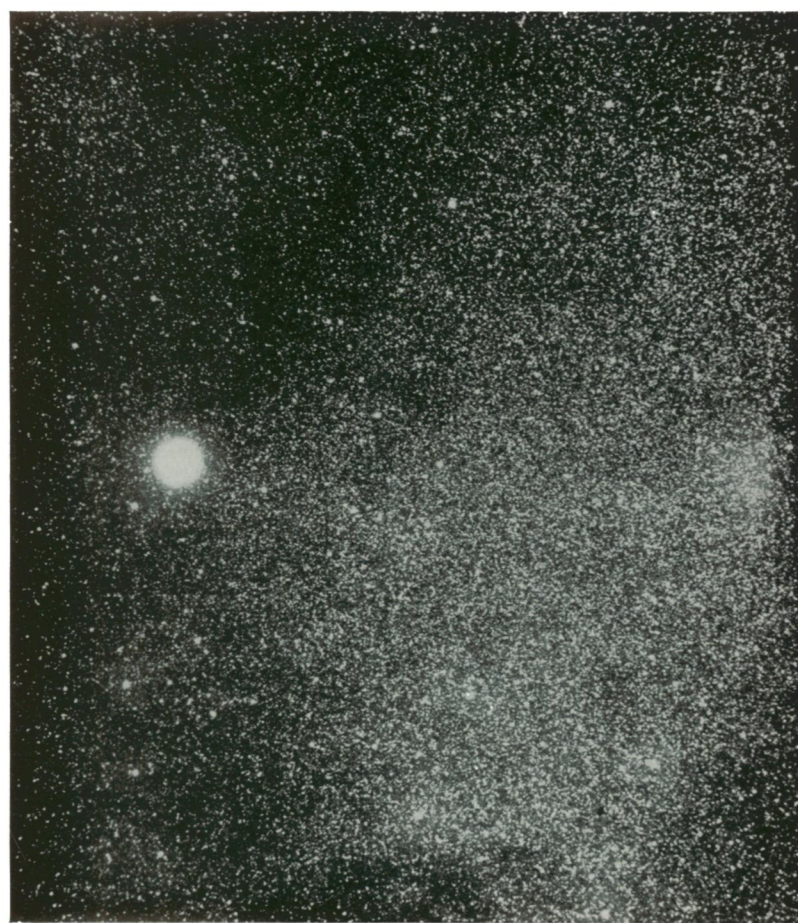


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



December 6, 1941

Heart of Our Galaxy

See Page 357

A S C I E N C E S E R V I C E P U B L I C A T I O N

Do You Know?

Carloads of *rock salt* are used each winter to salt streets and roads as a way of removing snow and ice.

Federal scientists say that *chimney swifts* never touch ground except by accident, spending their lives in the air and roosting against chimney walls.

Moving picture films are being used to speed up training of labor, to show salesgirls, for instance, how to put a purchase in a sack—and how not to.

In speed-up methods of painting, railroad cars now get a *wet-on-wet* job, in which specially formulated paint is sprayed over a partly dried prime coat.

Northwestern University has the world's *quietest room*—a 50-ton sound-insulated concrete box mounted on rubber, for testing sound-absorbent materials.

When most birds drink they dip in the bill, tip the head up and let the water flow down the throat, but a *mourning dove* takes a long draught keeping its bill in the water.

An American sailor has sent to the University of Kentucky's Museum of Geology two glacial boulders from *Ice-land* and a piece of Icelandic sandstone from a Viking church ruin.

A *fish tragedy* of 100,000,000 years ago is shown in a slab of chalk in the British Museum, where fossil remains of a dozen fish are caught in contortions suggesting sudden asphyxiation.

GENERAL SCIENCE

Vice-President Wallace Dedicates New Building

UPON the occasion of the dedication of the new building of Science Service and celebrating 20 years of Science Service activity. The Vice-President of the United States, Henry A. Wallace, will deliver the principal address in a half-hour radio program over the nationwide network of the Columbia Broadcasting System.

The dedication program will begin at 1:30 p.m. EST and will originate from the new Science Service building at 1719 N St., N.W., in Washington.

Leaders in science will participate, among them Dr. Vannevar Bush, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, Dr. Edwin Grant Conklin, president of Science Service and executive officer of the American Philosophical Society, Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of Harvard College Observatory and vice-president of Science Service.

Science News Letter, December 6, 1941

QUESTIONS DISCUSSED IN THIS ISSUE

Most articles which appear in SCIENCE NEWS LETTER are based on communications to Science Service, or on papers before meetings. Where published sources are used they are referred to in the article.

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What new discoveries have improved telescope efficiency? p. 357.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

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HORTICULTURE

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VOLCANOLOGY

In what way is a volcano like a thermos bottle? p. 358.

ZOOLOGY

On what animals does the grasshopper mouse prey? p. 362.

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