

Uncle Ray's Corner

Astronomers Speak Of Sun as True Star

More than once in the past, I have made a statement like this: "The distances to the true stars of night run into trillions and quadrillions of miles, and even more."

Perhaps you wonder why I say the "true stars of night." That is due, in the first place, to the fact that some persons speak of planets as stars. It is a manner of speaking, but there are differences between planets and true stars.

A true star gives its own light, but a planet gives reflected light. The earth, Mars, Jupiter and other planets shine because they reflect sunshine.

Planets go around a central object like our sun. The stars are of a much higher order. Measurements suggest that a true star, on the average, has something like a million times the volume of the earth. Stars look small only because they are so far away.

Q. Why are "stars of night" mentioned?

A. Astronomers class the sun as one of the true stars. It might be called a "daytime star." If we could stand on a planet going

around a star in the Big Dipper, that star would look very large, something like our sun. Turning toward our solar system from that planet, we would fail to see the earth and other planets. Our sun would look like a star.

Q. How far is a light year?
A. In round numbers, a light year amounts to six trillion miles. Not counting the sun, the closest true stars are Proxima Centauri and the Alpha Centauri double star. Their distance from us is about 25 trillion miles.

Some of the other true stars are hundreds or thousands of light years from the earth, but most of them are millions of light years away, even billions.

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Uncle Ray



ON A WING AND A PRAYER. Aircraft salesman Arch Denny, right, explains at Mitchel Field yesterday how he dropped in with his twin-engine plane on no engines at all. Denny, 30, said both engines failed at 2,500 feet over the former Air Force base as he was heading for the Grumman plant in Bethpage from Teterboro, N.J. He set down neatly, to the amazement of Capt. Sal Bonventre, left, and Chief Morris Siegal of the General Service Administration's security-fire force.

Shake and Come Out Fighting

Mineola—Two of the antagonists in a bitter election campaign dispute last year met face to face for the first time yesterday before telling their stories to a Nassau grand jury. Staying true to form, they refused to shake hands for a few tense moments.

Meeting outside the grand jury room on the third floor of the county courthouse were Thomas F. Skinner, investigator for the Republican-controlled county board of supervisors, and Col. Robert M. Doherty, a long-time contributor and fund-raiser for the Democratic Party. Skinner had been instrumental in the GOP's strongest blast against the Democratic administration of County Executive Nickerson by preparing a report charging that the Democrats demanded contributions to the party from architects and engineers seeking personal-service contracts with the county. He had named Doherty as the "man to see" if contractors wanted to do business with the county. The jury is investigating.

When Assistant District Attorney Robert Shebar introduced the two to each other yesterday, both Skinner and Doherty extended their hands. But then Doherty pulled his hand away, saying, "Why don't you report the facts?" Skinner shot back: "That's exactly what I do do, and only the facts." After a few moments, the two finally shook hands.

Skinner, a former FBI agent, testified for almost an hour after signing a waiver of immunity against prosecution. Before leaving the courthouse he told

newsmen that he had reviewed details of his "no contribution, no contract" report before the jury. He said he had revealed "nothing new" to the panel. Dougherty also waived immunity before testifying for almost 90 minutes. He refused to comment on his testimony. Last fall he flatly denied Skinner's charges. The jury recessed without taking any action. It is also investigating charges by Oyster Bay Town Supervisor Michael N. Petito that town employees were compelled by the GOP to contribute one per cent of their pay to the party.

Wolff to Press VA For Nassau Hospital

Port Washington—Rep. Lester L. Wolff (D-Kensington) said last night that he would ask the Veterans Administration to locate a new 1,000-bed VA hospital at Mitchel Field. The administration is expected to locate the hospital in Stony Brook.

President Johnson's budget contained a request for \$1,000,000 to acquire land on Long Island for the hospital. The VA is expected to pick Stony Brook because it tries to locate its medical facilities near medical schools. Gov. Rockefeller, in his budget, asked for funds to initiate planning for a state medical center and school in Stony Brook.

Cosa Aide Gets SS on Bookie Rap

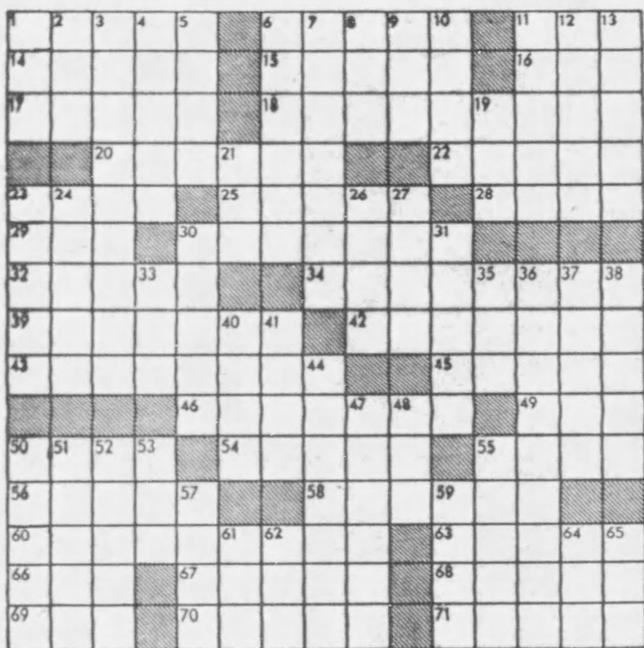
Mineola—Nick Botta, described as a top henchman of Cosa Nostra bigwig John (Sonny) Franzese, received a three-month suspended sentence and a \$250 fine yesterday on a bookmaking conviction.

The sentence was imposed by County Court Judge Albert A. Oppido, before whom Botta pleaded guilty to the charge last December. Botta, 40, who gave his address as 1414 L St., Elmont, says that he makes his living operating a luncheonette. District

Attorney Cahn describes Botta, as a Cosa Nostra "caporegime," or lieutenant, prominent in the bookmaking operations of Franzese.

Botta was arrested last April on a 15-count misdemeanor indictment for bookmaking and gambling charges. He was accused of taking 31 horse-racing bets ranging from \$1 to \$25. The district attorney's office, however, allowed Botta to plead guilty to one bookmaking count in satisfaction of the entire indictment.

Today's Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS**
- 1 Funny man
 - 6 Eur. city
 - 11 Fish
 - 14 Pineapple
 - 15 Became null and void
 - 16 Urgent message
 - 17 Blackbirds
 - 18 United Empire
 - 20 Little
 - 22 Musical instrument
 - 23 Deadly pale
 - 25 Played a part
 - 28 Low islands
 - 29 Derisive word
 - 30 More pleasing
 - 32 grade: The vanguard
 - 34 Canada's former status
 - 39 Strange
 - 42 Kind of short story
 - 43 Arboreal amphibian
 - 45 Book of maps
 - 46 Burial ceremony
 - 49 Explosive
 - 50 Too bad!
 - 54 U.S. poet
 - 55 Miss Lamarr
 - 58 Hue
- DOWN**
- 1 Part of a wheel
 - 2 Number
 - 3 Standard of madness
 - 58 Crown
 - 60 Fictitious attribute of big eater
 - 63 Fast
 - 66 Compass point
 - 67 Son or daughter
 - 68 Uncovered
 - 69 Retreat
 - 70 Lock of hair
 - 71 Combustible piles
 - 4 Dentist's creation
 - 5 Box
 - 6 Emperor's residence
 - 7 Checked in development
 - 8 Gleam
 - 9 Labor union
 - 10 One's character
 - 11 Flow out
 - 12 Of unsteady gait
 - 13 Letters
 - 19 Class
 - 21 Carpenter's tool
 - 23 Behind: Nautical
 - 24 Give character to
 - 26 British school
 - 27 People: Comb. form
 - 30 Formal
 - 31 Competitor
 - 33 Born
 - 35 After all deductions
 - 36 Bad disposition
 - 37 Swedish island
 - 38 Not nice
 - 40 Food
 - 41 Nobody
 - 44 Javanese musical instrument (pl.)
 - 47 Rules
 - 48 Unsorted flour
 - 50 Hurt
 - 51 Unattached
 - 52 Green Mtn., Boys leader
 - 53 Peruvian coin
 - 55 Ponderous
 - 57 Mr. Burns (abbr.)
 - 59 Fall
 - 61 Armed conflict
 - 62 Untruth
 - 64 Anger
 - 65 Delirium tremens
- Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:**
- | | | |
|----------|----------|-------|
| HISS | TULIA | SCADS |
| ONCE | OBITU | ALLOT |
| ODAL | FONT | MAINE |
| CINE | FAKIR | STAIN |
| HATCHET | TOES | |
| TIE | PUSSYCAT | |
| CANEM | CADEY | AXE |
| USED | ROPES | BRIN |
| LIT | HOMES | CHEST |
| MASSAGER | SHE | |
| EYED | SPARTAN | |
| GALA | RIFLE | KOTA |
| ABODE | ALLEN | ITEM |
| BELOW | NEED | WATE |
| STAGE | BAPT | BLEED |

Nassau News Calendar

- Today**
- Glen Cove**
Masons, 8 PM, Lincoln Settlement House.
 - Hempstead**
Unattached Club, 9 PM, dance. YMCA, 105 Jerusalem Ave.
 - Seaford**
AMVETS, 8:30 PM, clubhouse.
 - Tomorrow**
Senor Youth Group, 7:30 PM, Temple Emanuel.
 - Hempstead**
BBYA, 8 PM, Congregation Beth Israel.
 - Lynbrook**
Young Peoples, 6 PM, The Old Church.
 - Mineola**
Irish-American Society, 8:30 PM, 297 Willis Ave.; dance.
 - Oceanside**
Young Peoples, 5:30 PM, Windsor Avenue Bible Church.
 - Uniondale**
Family Swim, 2-5 PM, high school.
 - Valley Stream**
Duplicate Bridge, 7:30 PM, Temple Gates of Zion.
 - Monday Before 5 PM**
Garden City
Rotary, 12:15 PM, Garden City Hotel.
 - Great Neck**
Lions, noon, Chirillo's.
 - Hempstead**
Senior Citizens, 1 PM, Brierley Hall.
 - Levittown**
Golden Age Club, 1 PM, firehouse.
 - Mineola**
Nassau Board of Supervisors, 11 AM, Old Court House.
 - Rockville Centre**
Senior Citizens, 10:30 AM, Recreation Center.
 - Syosset**
Rotary, 12:30 PM, Jericho Lanes.
 - Westbury**
Senior Citizens, noon, Community Center.