

Steer by stars

'Astrology like first aid,' book publisher claims

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Astrology, the oldest science of them all, is doing very well, thank you.

And it's easy to understand. Believers in the message of the stars say you can understand yourself better and keep in control of your destiny through astrology.

"I think of astrology like first aid or the law," said Carl Weschcke, a publisher of astrological books. "You should know enough to keep yourself out of trouble."

Weschcke contends astrology should be thought of as a planning guide and a way to self-knowledge. "When you understand yourself better, then you can move forward," he said. "It's known that the lunar cycle affects the emotions and the sun affects seasons, but there's more to it than that."

He explained that many important life cycles are 7 years in duration and are a part of the planet Saturn's 28 year cycle. "So there could be something to the seven year itch," he said.

He added that Jupiter's 12-year cycle is considered a prediction of future happenings. "But you do have to take astrology with a grain of salt," he said.

WESCHCKE is the creator of a mass market series of books on astrology. In 1960, he purchased Llewellyn Publications, a 78-year-old publishing house of the occult and the astrological.

Founded by Llewellyn George in 1901, the company has grown to 20 times its size since Weschcke acquired it, moving it from Los Angeles to St. Paul, Minn.

In addition to hundreds of serious astrological and occult texts, the publisher also produces two monthly magazines and sponsors the annual Gnostic-Aquarian festival of lectures and workshops for prominent occult thinkers.

Weschcke has devoted his entire life to the study of occultism as philosophy, religion and practical application, and owns one of the largest private libraries of books on magic, astrology, witchcraft and the occult.

His aim is to continue the great renaissance that has occurred in astrology and the occult and to popularize it.

Weschcke's approach to the supernatural is non-nonsense and common sense. His theories are based, not on frightening, doomday-like predictions, but on channeling the positive energies that lie within each of us toward a better life — and always, based on the advice of the stars.

"WE PUBLISH our books so that people don't have to do all their own astrological research," he said.

A third mass market series of "Llewellyn's Personal Guides and Astrological Almanacs for 1980" have recently been published by Bantam Books. The slim paperback volumes sell for \$1.50.

Each contains a daily forecast guide.

Weschcke explained that August is the month when astrology devotees look ahead to the new year.

A set of 12 books, one for each sign of the Zodiac, they each include a day-by-day forecast for the entire year, a complete 1979 overview, and a daily astrological almanac of beauty, health, gardening, love, business and family matters as governed by the stars for each sign.

The guides are written by the Llewellyn personal services staff under Weschcke's supervision.

For the publisher, the occult is nothing more than a process of awakening, of becoming aware of all the available energies and making use of them.

"Astrology is not fatalistic," he said. "The more we're aware, the more we can take advantage of knowledge. People are definitely looking to get in tune with the material world."

WESCHCKE is a native of St. Paul and said he has been interested in astrology as far back as he can remember.

"When I bought the publishing company, it was small and I was lucky," he said. "I bought it in a timely fashion. People said astrology was a dying trade and I said no. Now it's come into quite a renaissance."

"Incidentally, I was in my 28 year cycle that year and was in drug manufacture. I dropped it to go into publishing."

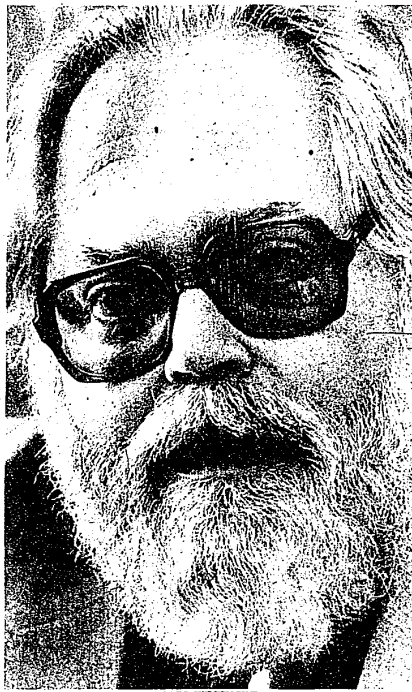
Today, Weschcke has 85 employees and draws on the talents of about 300 experts around the country.

"We use all the electronic gadgetry," he said. "Astrology goes back to the first speculation that men made about the seasons and the forces of nature millions of years ago. Stonehenge was an observatory to view the stars as were the great pyramids of Egypt."

He said the renewal of interest in astrology today has meant that many people who once scoffed now take it seriously.

"The scientist in Florida tabulated some 2,000 murder cases and found a correlation between the crimes and the lunar cycle," he said.

THOUGH the series of paperback books is a recent development, the publishing company has a moon sign book that has been in print for 75 years.



CARL WESCHCKE

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— Carl Weschcke

Staff photo by Gary Friedman

Backpacking trip focuses on ecology

A 15-year-old Troy student recently went on an educational backpacking trip to Isle Royale in the Upper Peninsula as part of a summer youth program at Michigan Technological University.

Mike Reilly, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph V. Reilly, 1370 Glenwood, was one of 24 teenage students who participated in the two-week program.

Driver tested in road death

West Bloomfield Police are awaiting results of a blood alcohol test in their investigation of a fatal car crash Aug. 5 on Commerce Road.

Blood taken from the driver of the car is being analyzed by the state crime lab to test for any alcohol content. A 19-year-old Walled Lake youth was killed in the crash.

Steve Jenkins was a passenger in a car driven by Michael Thomas Woods, of 2353 Terry in Walled Lake, according to police. The car was traveling on winding Commerce Road at approximately 2:30 a.m. when the driver apparently lost control and hit a tree.

The impact of the car hitting the tree caused the floor on the passenger side splintered the window and crushed the welded frame of the red Pontiac LeMans Sport. Jenkins, still alive, had to be extracted from the car using the hydraulic operated Jaws of Life.

He was taken to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac, where he died.

Woods was treated at the scene of the crash for minor injuries and was not hospitalized, according to police.

Police said a case of beer with some opened bottles was found in the back seat of the car.

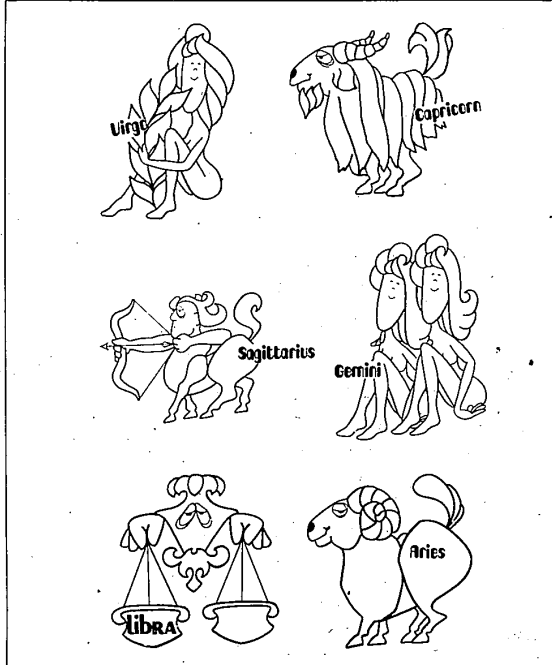
New recruit

Curtis A. Ryckman of Farmington Hills enlisted in the U.S. Air Force late last month and left for six weeks of basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

The 17-year-old graduate of Clarenceville High School has been guaranteed training as a jet engine mechanic. He will receive college credit for his Air Force training through the Community College of the Air Force.

Upon graduation from technical training school, Ryckman will be assigned as a jet engine mechanic at an Air Force duty station.

His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Francis Ryckman, 21135 Ontario, in Farmington Hills.



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