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SEEK ORIGINS OF LIFE

Albany Democrat-Herald

The Carnegie Corporation of New York has made a grant of \$20,000 to Queen's University, at Kingston, Ont., for studies expected to throw new light on the origin of life on earth. A Queen's University biologist, Prof. J. R. Vallentyne, after a five-year study of organic matter in lake waters and sediments, is directing the new research.

It has been suspected, biologist Vallentyne says, that organic compounds may be preserved in sediments several million years old. Finding of amino acids, the basic building blocks which comprise living matter in samples of rock 1,400,000,000 (one billion 400 million) years old pushes still farther back the time at which some forms of life may have existed on earth.

The New York Times science editor pro tem, Robert K. Plumb, tells us that two important scientific conclusions are possible—(1) scientific evidence may be provided about the maximum number of years during which life has existed; (2) some decision of the question whether pre-Cambrian limestones and shales were formed of living material or of inert chemicals.

Well, maybe they'll get back to the time when there was apparently an endless supply of inorganic material but no amino acid, no other trace of what we know as life. This will look like the beginning. But it will be only apparently so—until some other indefatigable inquiring mind—one definition of a scientist—is able to discover submicroscopic life in what was thought to be completely inert matter.

Science is pushing the boundaries of human knowledge farther and farther back. The extent of the universe, as revealed through the newer giant telescopes searching out the secrets of remote space with the aid of spectroscopic analysis, approaches nearer and nearer the unattainable goal of infinity. We are reminded that we no longer have a simple world of all-black and all-white in any of the fields of thinking. We recall when things were generally thought to be either solid or liquid and when rock was, of course, just a bit of inorganic and lifeless matter—except for the occasional fossils encountered in it. And the line between animal and vegetable has been growing less distinct and definite in the minds of all those who give the matter any attention.

As scientists' knowledge advances and, in rough form, gravitates to the rest of us, the man in the street is finding he has been knowing too many things that aren't so. Now the origin of life, both as to its time and as to its explanation, is pushed back beyond the limits we had more or less arbitrarily set.

Apparently this is something else that is to be pushed back toward infinity. Which need not, as some might suppose, provide encouragement to religious skepticism. All we think it means is that some basic ideas, which could explain the "unexplainable," are simply just beyond our struggling finite minds.

So we should give it all up, as a bad job, eh? Call off the scientists? Quit reaching for what is just out of reach? Don't be silly. The quest for the unattainable keeps opening new doors; we'll get a lot of earthly material benefit out of it all. And what we earthbound mortals don't know, God knows. You will recall that some years ago Browning expressed in poetic phrase the idea that men's "reach" had to be beyond his "grasp"—else, "what is Heaven for?"

ANOTHER OIL WELL FAILS

Salem Capital Journal

Oil has not yet been discovered in Oregon and it is not for want of trying, especially over in Malheur county which geologists think enough of a possibility to risk drilling.

The El Paso Natural Oil and Gas Company has just thrown in the sponge after going down 7470 feet near Vale at a cost of \$150,000. It drilled for the Sinclair company which owned the leases.

A spokesman for the company said the result was discouraging but "does not necessarily dim our hope of finding gas or oil in Oregon." It is to be hoped that other wells will be drilled. The big companies expect most of their efforts to fail, but an occasional success far outweighs these. One strike would change the history of that region and all Oregon would feel the stimulating impact.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — Leaving through his morning mail, Hamilton Penfield Potts IV, president of the Acme Tiddly-winks Co., came across a sealed missive at the bottom of the pile.

Opening it, he found a card inside. It bore a drawing of a businessman with a halo around his head sitting on a heart-shaped throne—and the message: "Happy Valentine, Boss!"

The card was signed—"From your girl Monday through Friday, Amelia Dobbs."

Potts chuckled and rang for his secretary.

Miss Dobbs, plain, plump, middle-aged, entered immediately, notebook in hand, ready for dictation.

"Well, first of all, Miss Dobbs I want to thank you for your card—it was real cute," said Potts.

"By the way, will you phone the florist and have him send my wife some flowers? I forgot this was Valentine's Day."

"Yes, Mr. Potts," said Amelia. "I had almost forgotten, too. But I got a card to remind me—and it wasn't very cute."

"What do you mean?"

Miss Dobbs took a card from her suit pocket and handed it to him.

The card showed a cartoon of a scrawny, untidy elderly woman with big horn-rimmed glasses pecking at a typewriter. Underneath was this verse:

"Why, who sent you this?" demanded Potts angrily.

"It isn't signed."

"But such a cruel, unjust thing to do!"

"Oh, I guess there's some truth to it, Mr. Potts," said Amelia.

"After all, I've been here 22 years, and—"

"Not that long."

"Oh, yes, sir, I went to work for your father—both involuntarily"

looked at the wall where hung a portrait of frowning, three-chinned Hamilton Penfield Potts III.

"During your senior year at Harvard."

"Hm-m-m, so you did."

"It's a long time, and—"

Afraid his secretary might burst into tears, Potts rose hurriedly

and said, "Never mind the dictation now, Miss Dobbs. We'll do it later."

The Bosses Remembered

Amelia, her eyes downcast, crumpled her Valentine back into her pocket and left silently. An hour later her employer stuck his

Something To Shoot At

Peter Edson

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

WASHINGTON — (NEA) Likeliest outcome of the Formosa crisis is now regarded in Washington as a continued stalemate.

A remote possibility is for an undeclared, uneasy cease-fire agreement. Before that is achieved, there may be some testing out of probing to see how far the U. S. will go in backing up Nationalist Chinese forces.

The worst possible outcome is conceived as a United Nations resolution which would be acceptable to Communist China, but which the United States could not accept. Such a solution would be a UN decision to give Formosa to Red China.

An American veto of this solution in the UN Security Council would have the effect of separating the U. S. from its allies. There is a general recognition in Washington that any decision the United States makes on Formosa must have allied backing. The U. S. sponsored the Formosa resolution, a more aggressive military policy for the U. S. in the Far East, and a fight-now-rather-than-later policy.

Even Adm. Arthur W. Radford, Chairman of the U. S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, is said to recognize that this country must have world opinion on its side.

HE HAS BEEN QUOTED FREQUENTLY as favoring a China blockade, a more aggressive military policy for the U. S. in the Far East, and a fight-now-rather-than-later policy.

This has been limited, however, by his belief that these things could be done only if the international political atmosphere is right and there is world backing for American policy. This is an important qualification frequently omitted in stating the Admiral's views.

The basic military decision in handling the Far Eastern situation is that the retention of Formosa in hands friendly to the U. S. is essential for American defense. Civilian officials don't question the

decision of the military on this point.

In the defense of Formosa there is a firm conviction that no American ground forces shall be committed on the China mainland. Any U. S. action will be limited to U. S. Navy and Air Force.

THE QUESTION THAT ARISES from this is whether the United States would fight to support the Chinese Nationalists' present hold on Quemoy, Matsu or the Tachen Islands.

The United States definitely does not want to go to war with Communist China over a tiny, Chinese coastal island. Furthermore, the Chinese Reds have said many times that they were fighting not to liberate Quemoy, but to win Formosa.

Some of the coastal islands are said to be almost impregnable fortresses, heavily manned with Nationalist troops. With U. S. air and naval support they might be held indefinitely. Attacking Red troops might be slaughtered in great numbers.

IT IS CONCEDED THAT IN such an action a U. S. aircraft carrier might be sunk by Red bombers, accidentally or on purpose. Under present policy, President Eisenhower would then have a free hand, if he chose, to order "hot pursuit" of Red bombers back to their bases and the destruction of those bases.

So-called "massive retaliation," such as was talked of grandly in the earlier days of the Eisenhower administration, is apparently no longer contemplated.

There is a belief that the Red Chinese do not want a full scale war. A defeat inflicted on Communist China in a limited action would have a devastating effect on its plan for expansion in this part of the world.

This is calculated as a "further deterrent, contributing to the indefinite continuation of a Formosa stalemate.

head through the door and said crisply:

"I'm having a conference at lunch today and may need you to take notes. Can you come?"

"Yes, Sir."

When the waiter steered them to a table, Amelia was startled to see the three vice-presidents of the firm already seated there.

Potts opened a box by her plate, handed her an oversize purple orchid, and said:

"Surprise, Amelia! The party's for you."

Each vice president also had a Valentine present for her—a \$25 gift certificate, a dozen roses, a five-pound box of candy.

After a wonderful meal Potts, fueled by two martinis, made a speech praising Miss Dobbs for her long and faithful service and wound it up:

"You'll see a little better sign of our appreciation on your next paycheck, Amelia. If our competitors had any sense, they'd have tried to hire you away from us long ago."

Smacks Included

The four men then kissed her in turn. And none of those lightly husbandly pecks on the cheek either. (Mr. Potts, who knew a thing or two about women, had issued stern orders in advance to his vice presidents on that point.)

"This is the happiest Valentine Day of my whole life," said Amelia, her eyes swimming. And indeed it had been.

She went home then, because Potts insisted she take the afternoon off.

That evening when Amelia's roommate, Evelyn, returned from work, she found Miss Dobbs sprawled comfortably on a sofa munching a chocolate.

"What'd you do, rob a candy store?" she asked.

Miss Dobbs gaily told her the whole story, then showed her the mean Valentine cartoon that had started it all.

"Who do you think sent it to you?" Evelyn asked.

"Who sent it to me?" replied Amelia. "Why I sent it myself, of course, you silly goose."

Quemoy (also Nationalist-held) could similarly cork up the important red Chinese port of Amoy.

Let's now put the shoe on the other foot.

Suppose the communists should attempt to seize the Farallones, just outside our great port of San Francisco. (they're too small, of course, to be effectively fortified, but they will serve as an example).

Suppose the communists should attempt to seize Santa Catalina Island—which, properly fortified, could cork up the port of Los Angeles.

What would we do in that event? WE'D GO TO WAR!

Formosa is another story. It is now the refuge and the sanctuary of the Chinese who were driven off the Chinese mainland by the communists. Its historical record of ownership is highly complicated. We announced long ago that it is one of our strategic outposts in the Far East.

We have a good case for sitting tight on Formosa. But if we encourage the Nationalist Chinese to sit tight on Matsu and Quemoy, we won't have so good a case. We know WE'D GO TO WAR if the communists undertook to seize the Farallones and Catalina.

So— It seems to me that if we throw all our strength back of the Nationalist Chinese in Matsu and Quemoy we'll be PROVOKING WAR with the red Chinese on the mainland.

In the long and critical conflict with communism that lies ahead of us, it seems to me there are two things we MUST keep in mind:

1. We must neither run FROM trouble nor run INTO trouble.

2. We must neither SEEK a fight nor AVOID a fight.

Backing the Nationalist Chinese in Matsu and Quemoy islands looks to me like SEEKING A FIGHT.

Mao, Chou Voice Threat Of Wiping Out Aggressors

TOKYO (AP) — Mao Tse-tung ruler of Red China, declared Monday that "should the imperialists start a war" the Communist world "will certainly wipe them out clean from the surface of the globe."

The Red China leader in one of his rare public appearances made his tough-talking speech at a Soviet reception on the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Communist China-Russia mutual defense pact.

At the same reception, his premier, Chou En-lai, accused the United States of "preparing an atomic war" against the Communist world and predicting defeat if "United States aggressive circles attack."

J. M. Lomakin, Soviet charge d'affaires who acted as host, also lashed out at "American imperialism."

Peiping Radio broadcasts said Mao praised cooperation of Red China and Russia over the past five years and added:

"With the cooperation between our two great countries, China and the Soviet Union, I am convinced that the aggressive plans of imperialism will be smashed."

"We can all perceive that with the great cooperation between China and the Soviet Union, there are no aggressive plans of imperialism which cannot be smashed. They will certainly be thoroughly smashed."

"Should the imperialists start a war of aggression, we, together with the people of the whole world, will certainly wipe them out clean from the surface of the globe. Chou also kicked off with the threat of a new war, saying:

"If the United States aggressive circles dare to launch an aggressive attack against us, the Chinese people are determined to defeat them to the end."

PEERY MEDICALS

BY W.K. PEERY

Had General Joseph Lane been the political opportunist his opponents claimed he was, he never would have championed the cause of the southern states in Oregon. The state was small. In fact the population was so meager that Lane knew most of his constituents personally. Portland, Oregon, was scarcely more than a steamboat landing on the banks of the Willamette river. Roseburg's population could be counted as a few score.

True, Oregon was a democratic state politically. The population was made up largely of people of southern extraction. At the same time there was a potent minority of New Englanders who were the supporters of the then Whig party. It is questionable if Lane could be ignorant of the temper of the people of both political parties.

One would expect that the whigs would be opposed to slavery and the entire social structure in which it thrived. Yet the democrats in Oregon were divided on the subject of slavery. Many of the latter saw no place in Oregon for negroes. The early Oregon legislature passed an exclusion law to keep all colored people from the state. The reason for this many historians have failed to grasp. Some said it was due to the fact that the Oregon immigrants, having belonged to the poor white element in the south wanted no more negro competition in the labor market. In this they were entirely wrong.

The early Oregon pioneer was not a pauper searching for an easy way of life beyond the broad Missouri. Judged by the standard of the times they were men of substance. Writers like Burnett and Applegate, who crossed the plains in the early 1840's said it took a capital outlay of at least two thousand dollars for an outfit to cross the continent. It required the best type of draft animals for teams.

It took a special wagon constructed for the purpose. The outfit for provisions was no small item. All of which goes to prove the opinion the westward movement of Oregon pioneers was an escape from slave labor competition was a fallacy. To them slavery was an institution they left behind with no regrets. The idea of extending its influence to the Oregon country left them cold. Oregon was a country destined for free white men and the southern states could keep their institution of bondage if it suited them, but this was not for Oregon.

Lane was a man possessing the art of acute analysis. He understood the people of Oregon as few men did at the time. In view of this understanding on his part, the accusation that he attempted to cause a succession movement within the state was not borne out, either through consideration of the man's intelligence or the temper of the Oregon people.

Nixon Gives American Aid Pledge To Guatemala

GUATEMALA (AP) — Vice President Nixon was reported Monday to have promised Guatemala speedier U. S. economic aid to help this little republic get on its feet after 10 years of pro-Communist government.

Nixon conferred more than an hour last night with President Carlos Castillo Armas, whose volunteer army toppled the Red-influenced regime of Jacobo Arbenz Guzman last June. Later the two dined together.

A Guatemalan source said Nixon had given the president "most encouraging assurances" that Washington would speed up its aid program to Guatemala.

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