

Scientists Probing Secrets In Growth of Sperm Cells

EDITOR'S NOTE: The day of the actual test tube baby is many years distant, if it ever comes. But the day of the test tube guinea pig isn't so far off at all. In fact, a Denver doctor has just about succeeded in solving the male half of the problem.

By STEPHEN M. AUG
Of the Associated Press

DENVER (AP)—Scientists at the National Jewish Hospital here are growing sperm cells in test tubes.

The technique, developed by Dr. Russell Jordan of National Jewish, in collaboration with Dr. Seymour Katsh of the University of Colorado School of Medicine, permits investigators to watch progress of the cell from germinal tissue to maturity.

So far the cells have been taken from guinea pigs. The discovery, however, may have vast implications in four important areas of research:

1. Genetics, the study of the principles of heredity.
2. Radiobiology, the effects of radiation on growth and heredity.
3. Growth.
4. Understanding the changes which take place in cells, and how these changes ultimately determine what these cells will be.

What are the possible results of these studies?

Jordan points out that scientists may learn what causes sterility—how it can be controlled. Perhaps, he says, these studies will ultimately make possible natural parenthood for couples now incapable of having children.

Another result of such studies could be a natural means of birth control, Jordan emphasizes his studies are not specifically concerned with this problem.

The study may also give insight into the abnormal growth

of cells. This is aimed particularly at a cure for cancer, a disease characterized by wild, abnormal cellular growth.

Other possibilities may include finding causes of such inherited diseases as cystic fibrosis, and means of improving animal breeding through artificial insemination.

First Time

Jordan believes his program marks the first time sperm cells have been grown artificially.

He began the project by using the testicular tissue of guinea pigs and growing it under controlled laboratory conditions.

By injecting the home-grown cells into the guinea pigs Dr. Katsh was able to induce sterility.

Actual fertilization using the artificially-grown sperm has not yet been accomplished.

But, Jordan says, "We have been able to follow the course of the development of relatively undifferentiated cells through all of the steps which finally end with the wiggling, mature spermatozoon."

The next step, he says, is to try to mate these mature cells with ova, or female cells, in culture.

Embryos Possible

"If environmental conditions in the test tube were just right," he claims, "it is possible that we could go beyond the zygote state—the formation of a cell formed by the union of sperm and ovum—and get into small embryos of some kind."

Jordan calls one of the projects "most exciting possibilities" the development of tools to study the effects of radiation on individual germ cells and then possibly watching the evolution of these cells in union.

By subjecting the cells to radiation during growth and observing what happens then and later, it may be possible in the future to predict the type of damage and resulting mutations, if any.

Lane Group For Retarded Picks Chief

Ralph W. Bright of 1736 Moss St., Eugene, has been re-elected president of the board of directors of the Lane County Assn. for Retarded Children.

Bright, a salesman for Valley Printing Co. in Eugene, has served in the presidency for two previous terms. He is past president of the Oregon State Assn. for Retarded Children.

Serving with Bright as officers of the board are James Lent of Eugene, a new board member and the new vice president; Mrs. Carol D. Perkins of Springfield, another new board member and the new secretary, and Carlton Zane of Eugene, re-elected as treasurer.

Other members of the board are Vern L. Farrow, Bob Bauder and Mrs. Robert H. Anderson Jr., all of Eugene.

Nancy Peake of Eugene is the association's executive secretary.

3-Car Crash Shakes Up 2

A three-car accident in Springfield Wednesday evening sent two persons to the McKenzie-Willamette Memorial Hospital for out-patient treatment for cuts and bruises.

Treated and released were Sue Edwards, 10, 505 N. 38th St., and Florence Merkel, 52, 136 Willamette Road, Eugene.

Springfield police said Mrs. Merkel's car struck the rear of a car operated by Gerald Davis, 250 N. 44th St. Davis' car was pushed into a car driven by Patricia Olund, 972 M St. The Olund car, police said, had halted on Main St., waiting for traffic to clear to make a left hand turn onto N. 23rd St. No citations were issued.

The Edwards girl was a passenger in Mrs. Merkel's vehicle, police said.

In Chinju, Korea

Fete Marks Orphanage Construction

A traditional Korean ceremony—on July 7—marked the half-way point on construction of a new nursery building at the Ureini Dongsan Orphanage, in Chinju, Korea. The building is being financed by donations of Emerald Empire residents.

Jury to Consider Loss of Material

OREGON CITY (AP)—Clackamas County Dist. Atty. William Schumacher says he will ask the county grand jury to consider a shortage of material from Camp Withycombe when it meets next Thursday.

County officials and Oregon State Police have been investigating the disappearance of material reported to be worth about \$6,000 from the Oregon National Guard post.

Schumacher said most of the property was turned over to the state when the Navy abandoned its Tongue Point Naval Station.

Bang Yue Chun, orphanage director, sent photos and a description of the ceremony to Mrs. George Surdam, of Pleasant Hill, who with Molly Holt of Creswell, organized a sponsorship program for the more than 80 children living at the orphanage.

Chinju is Eugene's "sister city."

Bang said the mayor of Chinju and other city officials gathered at the orphanage for the occasion of the "Sand Lang Sik" ceremony.

"In Korea," he explained, "the ancient custom is that when the building is half done, the blessing word is raised into place in the center of the ceiling and a banquet by candlelight is laid."

Sponsors and others raised \$1,500 in cash and borrowed another \$800 to provide the orphanage director with money needed to construct the nursery building. The building was needed to bring the orphanage up to licensing standards required by the new Korean government.

Mrs. Surdam has provided the director with a list of all the donors.

"When the new building is all done," he wrote, "I will send a picture and a letter to everyone, but for now I will send thanks through you. . . . The help I received was like giving me the sky, the moon and the ocean."

He said Chinju's mayor has arranged for a new road into the orphanage, has offered \$500 for a new room, and is attempting to get electricity for the orphanage.

"I am very happy to write that all the children who were sick are all well and happily playing in the sunshine," he wrote. "I think this is all because the American people sent the vitamins and so many nice things."



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Forest Service Asks End Of Mining in Dunes Area

The U.S. Forest Service has filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw 21,000 acres of sand dune lands along the coast in Lane, Douglas and Coos counties from the general mining laws.

The lands are in the Siuslaw National Forest and are generally those for which national park designation has been advocated.

The application asks that the area be exempt from mining entry or activity.

The BLM has jurisdiction over all public land transactions.

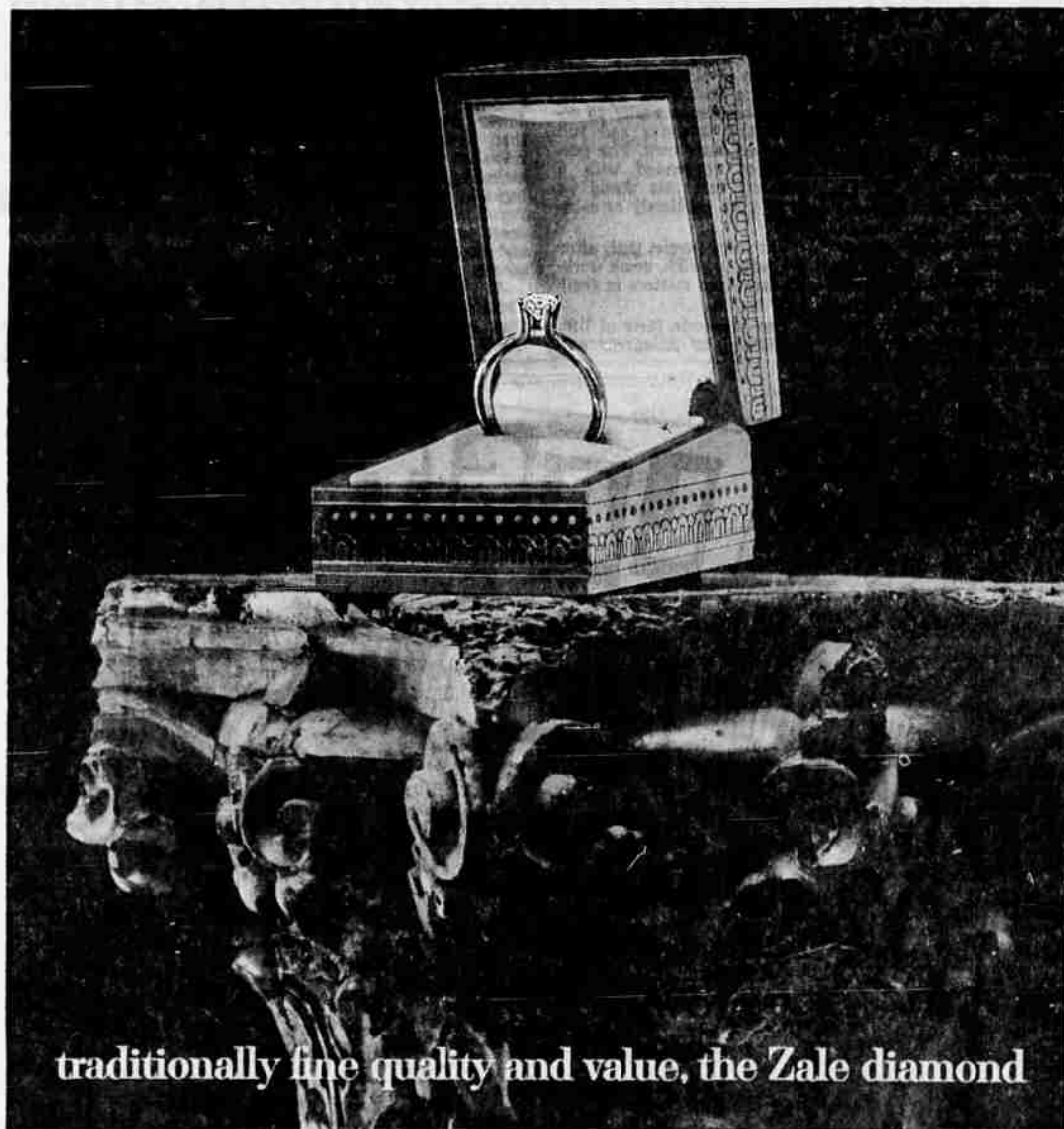
A detailed description of the affected lands will be published in the Federal Register and will be posted in the Eugene courthouse.

The public has 30 days from the date of publication to comment on the proposal. Such comment should be written to the state director, BLM, U.S. Dept. of Interior, 710 NE Holladay, Portland, 12.

Innocent Plea

An innocent plea was entered in Lane County Circuit Court Friday by Lorraine W. Staton, 30, of 485 W. 28th Ave., Eugene, to a charge of obtaining money under false pretenses.

A grand jury indictment charges she passed a worthless \$100 check on June 23 at the Sears, Roebuck store in Eugene.



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