

'Sun Civilization' Claimed on Horizon

Washington—(U.P.)—A "sun civilization" of unlimited abundance may be on man's horizon. This possibility was proclaimed without fanfare at Berkeley, Calif., in the waning days of 1954.

At a time in human history when many a reflective person was wondering whether his species could survive hydrogen-atomic violence, a group of University of California scientists issued a statement.

The scientists, headed by Dr. Daniel I. Arnon, said they had harnessed sunlight to create sugar and starch out of water and carbon dioxide in the absence of green plants. It had never been done before.

No bells rang, no sirens shrieked, and neither Congress nor the United Nations was called into extraordinary session.

But if the promise implied in the Berkeley announcement can be fulfilled, human society is headed for a golden age of plenty in which there will be no war because there will be no reason for war.

Next Great Invention

Dr. C. F. Kettering, famous General Motors scientist-engineer, said recently that "we've never had any great inventions since the discovery of the wheel." The next great invention, he said, will be artificial food production.

"The human race must some day become independent of plant life," he said, adding the prediction that it will do so "in the next 50 years."

The meaning of the Berkeley announcement was that man already has found a way to accomplish elementary photosynthesis without benefit of living green cells. The vision thus evoked is one of inexhaustible food supplies and inexhaustible power.

Scientists have a long way to go before they can manufacture fats and proteins as well as carbohydrates artificially in a sun factory.

Unlimited Abundance
But enough has been learned to justify belief that man—if he can stay alive for yet a few decades—will liberate himself from the tyranny of green growing things.

Should that come to pass, Dr. Arnon said in Berkeley, "it would usher in a new era of unlimited abundance in which man would be able to tap the energy of sunlight directly and free himself of his dependence on green plants for food and energy sources."

The sun is the giver of all life on earth and the source of all power so far used by man on a big scale. It energizes life by means of complicated chemical processes employed by green plants and known collectively as photosynthesis.

The green leaves of plants

trap sunlight and transform it into chemical energy. In the process they create out of water, carbon dioxide and sun all amounts of other elements the tissues and materials on which all life subsists.

Plants Are Inefficient
Once—living organisms, preserved over millions of years as hydrocarbons in the form of coal, oil and gas, supply man with stored sunlight which he converts into power for his machines by combustion.

Photosynthesis is amazingly complex, amazingly rapid, and amazingly inefficient. A plant manages to trap and store less than one per cent of the sunlight that falls on its leaves. A man-made machine that inefficient would be discarded. Nevertheless, the bulk product of photosynthesis is tremendous.

Scientists have been fascinated by the processes of green life ever since they tumbled to the fact that plants are indispensable to all other forms of life. But not until the atomic era came along could men of science examine these processes in detail.

Using radioactive tracer atoms, detectable from split-second to split-second as they move through a biological system, they learned a great deal of how a plant manufactures complex compounds.

Promise of Plenty
If science can identify and then manufacture these compounds out of non-living matter plus solar energy, it can produce earth's basic foods and fuels without the help of plants.

Since plants are so inefficient, there is reason to believe that

man—once he learns the steps—can better their production many-fold. That is the promise in the announcement from Berkeley.

According to Gordon Dean, former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, "This single accomplishment might well change the conditions of human existence more drastically than all the work in the field of nuclear powered ships, airplanes and electric generators."

The present AEC chairman, Lewis L. Strauss, has said that if artificial photosynthesis can be perfected, "it may be that from that point on, since both water and carbon dioxide, and sunlight, are plentiful commodities, the food supply problem of the world, which has been a limiting factor on population growth, would be solved."

Additional Church News

Nazarenes To Open Youth Week Sunday

Youth week in the Medford Church of the Nazarene will begin during a closing rally of Sunday school next Sunday. At that time the complete schedule for youth week activities will be announced.

Exchange
Highlights of the week included an exchange service with the members of Ashland church of the Nazarene, who will be hosts to the Medford church on Monday night. Tuesday night will feature a surprise talent night and "hobo lunch," and Wednesday night the emphasis will be placed on the Nazarene Lamp-lighting league which is a soul-winning organization. At this service a film, "Missions to Walker's Garage" will be shown.

Teams Play
Thursday night the Nazarene Senior team plays the First Baptist team which will be one of the outstanding games of the church league. Friday night the Medford church will be host to the Ashland Church of the Nazarene. The week will be climaxed on Sunday, February 8 when the youth of the church will have charge of the regular worship service.

Sunday the Rev. R. W. Hurn will present the third in his series of messages on the theme of "Temptation." His subject will be "Temptation and Desire." Mrs. Donna Goble will be the soloist in the morning worship hour.

America is said to have the brightest autumn coloring in the world.

Presbyterians To Receive Members; Will Honor Youth

New members will be received at the First Presbyterian church at the second service on Sunday. Dr. D. Kirkland West will preach on the subject, "Remember Thy Creator Now," in observance of National Youth week and in recognition of the YMCA Sunday.

Music will include anthems by the Westminster and Chancel choirs and a solo by Mrs. Rosalind Hoover.

Dr. West will broadcast the first service from 10 to 10:30 a.m. over Station KMED.

'Challenge'
The Rev. Thomas McCamant of the Congregational church will bring a message to the evening group on "Christ's Challenge to Youth." The Senior high group will be in charge of Ray Williams and Jimmy Martolin when they discuss the topic What is Life. Fireside will be at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Cochran, Route 2.

Junior High youth will be in charge of David Carter and Harvey Hencil when they will discuss the topic, "What would Christ Think of Medford?" Fireside will be at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Norris, 831 Minnesota avenue.

Ward Lampkin will speak on "The Challenge of Christ for our City" to the adult group.

Timber resources on the public domain of the U. S. have an estimated current value of more than \$100,000,000.

Children's Choir To Furnish Music

The Children's choir, under the direction of Mrs. Dorothy Sloniger, will offer the anthem at the 9:30 a.m. service of worship at the First Methodist church, Sunday, Jan. 10. The choir is composed of children in the 4th, 5th, and 6th, grades of the church school.

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb will conclude a series of sermons on "Passages Of Power" with an exposition of the Book of Acts entitled, "A Doctor's Diary" at the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services of worship.

The School of Christian Living, with a snack supper, interest groups, and worship for all ages will convene at 6 p.m. for the final session of its fourth series in the current year.

Brethren To Sponsor Dinner Wednesday

An Italian dinner will be served Wednesday, Feb. 2, at the Church of the Brethren basement recreation rooms between the hours of 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. Anyone interested is invited and a nominal charge will be made.

The proceeds from the dinner will be used toward the cost of a formal dinner to be given Feb. 21, honoring the intermediate and young people's classes of the church. Each person attending Sunday school for six weeks will be invited to the dinner and may take a friend with them. It is hoped that the banquet for the intermediates and the young people will be an annual event.

A turkey raised to market age in about 28 weeks requires between 75 and 100 pounds of varied feeds.


Completion Near for Church School Annex

Rapid progress is now being made on the construction of a new Sunday school building for the Congregational church on Oakwood drive, church officers announce. An open pavilion which was on the property is being used. It has now been fully enclosed and it is hoped that it may be ready for use before many weeks.

Next Sunday the Rev. Thomas McCamant will reach the midpoint in a series of sermons based on the discourses of Jesus in Matthew. The sermon will be on chap. 10 and the topic is, "On Going Out to Teach". A vocal solo will be furnished by Mrs. Howard Bush.

Friday, January 28, 1955

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