



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

Two Families Fought For the Same 'Home'

When two separate families desire and are willing to fight for one dwelling there is bound to be trouble of sorts. This particular "home," about whose portals rages this tempest of ownership, is located but a short distance from a busy highway. It's a hole in a telephone pole.

A family of woodpeckers were being thrown out of their home by a pair of English sparrows. When the disputed home first came to the attention of the human observers, the sparrows had just cleaned out the cavity and were busy filling it with a "pile of trash" of their own.

Apparently the woodpeckers had felt that everything was on the "up and up" and had hid themselves away on a short business trip before setting up housekeeping. While they were away, the sparrows found the site desirable and moved out the woodpeckers' house furnishings. When the woodpeckers returned, the sparrows were moved in.

Began Cleaning
Mr. Woodpecker apparently remarked, "Well, this is a pretty kettle of fish," and he sailed in and began the task of cleaning out the very last vestige of the sparrow's nest. Mrs. Woody moved in; she had eggs that must be laid. The sparrows screamed their heads off, but they voiced their abuse from a safe distance.

But tolerance is a virtue never acquired by a sparrow; neither is decency. Neither of the sparrow pair was gifted with a conscience or any continued timidity. And the trusting woodpeckers made their second mistake. They both left the property one day at the same time. The watchful sparrows saw their chance and moved in, throwing out every stick and feather, every leaf and blade of grass.

The woodpeckers returned before the last of the furnishings were moved out. Frantically they flew around the

pole, crying shrilly and blaspheming the little brown birds that were in possession. The sparrows "sat tight"; something about possession being several points in their favor.

For several weeks the saw battle of wits and ejection of nesting material has gone on. The woodpeckers are angry, disgusted and homeless. The sparrows have a stubborn persistence that would seem to insure their continued occupancy. The woodpeckers, somewhat more refined, refrain from too violent methods. But the situation is tense and the ultimate outcome doubtful.

Traffic still streams past this nest-hole in the telephone pole where two families are desirous of living. The court of human relations is unmindful of the outcome but to the bird families it is a "big deal." The end result may be recorded only in a silent unheard-of "court of last resort."

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1960)

Lewis and Clark College Gets Gift

Portland — (UPI) — Lewis and Clark college has been given a million dollars providing it can raise a similar sum by the end of 1964 in other outside gifts.

Announcement of the gift was made at a testimonial dinner for Dr. Morgan Odell, retiring president. The philanthropist who made the gift remains anonymous.

The string attached to the gift said that another million in outside gifts must be received by Dec. 31, 1964, at the rate of \$200,000 a year or the unmatched balance will be forfeited.

At the testimonial to Dr. Odell it was brought out that Lewis and Clark has grown from a school with 137 students and a debt of \$125,000 18 years ago to one of 1,060 students and an annual budget of \$1,410,958 at present.

Heart Muscle Study May Aid Attack Patients

New Brunswick, N. J. — (Science Service) — A new line of treatment for heart attack patients could come from studies of heart muscle cells and the food elements that make these cells grow.

Dr. James W. Green, associate professor of physiology and biochemistry at Rutgers Bureau of Biological Research here, is working to determine the nutritional requirements of heart muscle cells as distinct from the nutritional requirements of the whole heart.

Acute damage to heart tissues (such as after a heart attack) is followed by replacement with scar tissue, Dr. Green explained. If some way could be found to supply a nutritional environment that promotes the growth of heart muscle in such cases, the scar tissue would be less readily formed, he said, and the heart would be more functional when healed.

At the moment Dr. Green is concerned with growing heart muscle cells in test tubes and culture plates. He needs large quantities of cells that grow for periods of time long enough to permit biochemical analysis.

The problem of separating the heart muscle cells from the surrounding connective tissue (which makes up scar tissue) has been solved. This was accomplished by using seven-to-eight-day-old chick embryo hearts and trypsin, a digestive enzyme that causes the actual separation of the two kinds of cells. Dr. Green has adapted the separation technique for use on the hearts of newborn mice.

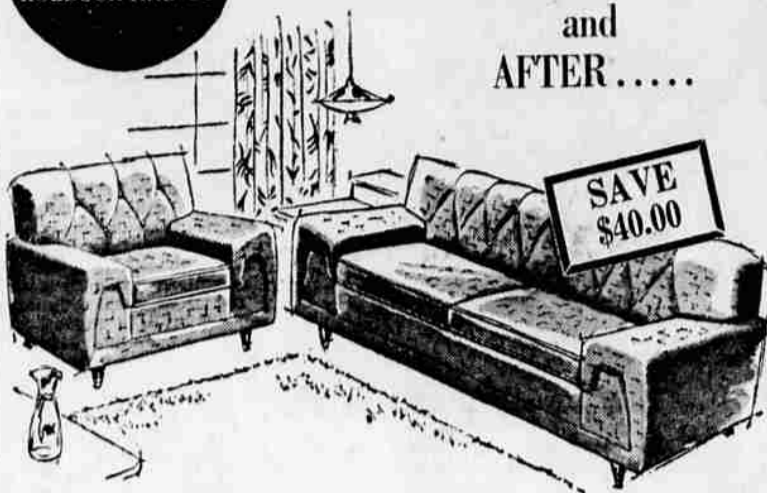
The next step will be an attempt to grow the heart muscle cells in whole suspension cultures for large scale use in analysis.

OLDEST COUNCILOR DIES
Portland, Maine — (UPI) — William H. O'Brien, 92, one of the oldest city councilors in the nation, died Tuesday.

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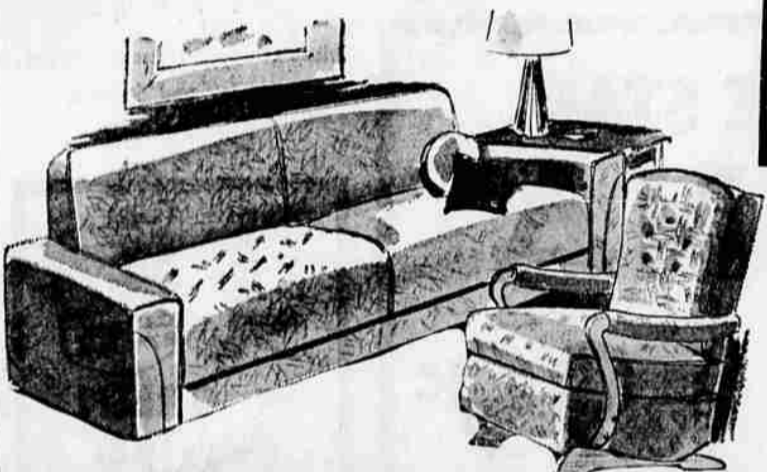


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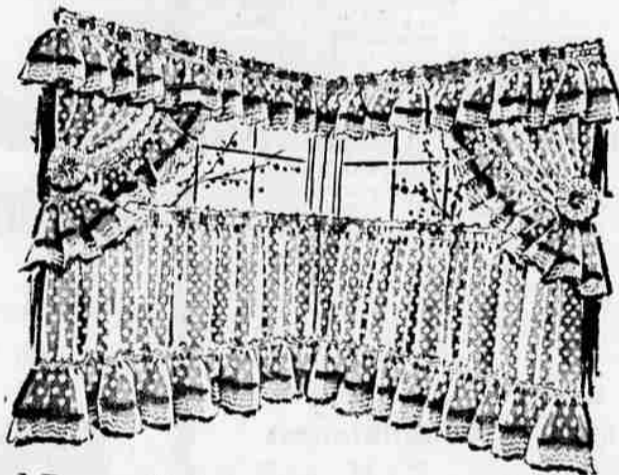
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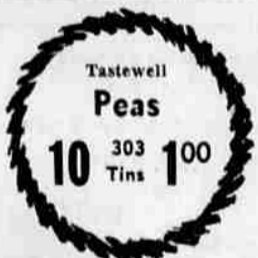
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