

Pacific Northwest Aquatic Plants Reviewed in Key

Corvallis - The first illustrated key to the aquatic plants of the Pacific Northwest - some 440 species in all - has been published by Oregon State college.

Eight years in the making, the key covers the Columbia River Basin and the Northwest Coast of North America from the Klamath river to the southern tip of Alaska. Water plants are especially numerous and important in the Northwest, and the book points out.

Included in the aquatic plant category are those plants that live under and on the water, and those whose roots are flooded a good part of the year. In the Pacific Northwest, the period of flowering and fruiting of aquatic plants is short compared to most other areas. For this reason, the key emphasizes vegetative characters - root, stem and leaf.

Preparation of the book was started in 1952 by the late Dr. Albert N. Steward, curator of the college herbarium for many years. After his death in June 1959, the work was completed by LeRea Dennis, botany instructor and assistant herbarium curator, and Dr. Helen Gilkey, professor emerita of botany. Special grants of approximately \$9,000 were received from National Science Foundation for support of the research work and for preparation and publication of the plant key. Initial work was aided by grants from the OSC graduate school.

The book will be of value not only to botanists but also to workers in such varied fields as fish and game management, entomology, animal husbandry, and related plant and animal sciences, Miss Dennis said.

Copies of the book may be purchased from the OSC office of publications. Paperbound copies are \$2.50 and cloth bound books, \$4.50.

Spaceman Project Is Wasting Time, Money and Effort

Oxford, England (Science Service) - The drive to put a man into space is having a bad effect on science in both the United States and Russia, a British space expert, Dr. R. L. F. Boyd of the University of London, charged here.

He said that attempting to put a man into space is a prostitution of science since the main fruits of success will be political.

Scientifically, "we are trying to run before we can walk," Boyd charged at Oxford university here. The effort is costing both the United States and Russia much because the highest grade scientific manpower and resources are being diverted to the space effort from other programs of far greater immediate importance.

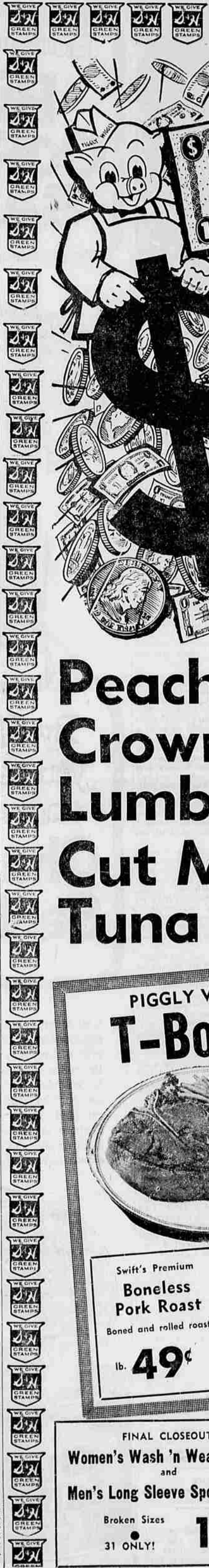
At present, Boyd said, experiments involving satellites and rockets require high precision in orientation and stabilization. The presence of any living creature on board makes this infinitely more difficult, if not impossible, thus severely limiting the scope of the experiment. The space and weight taken up by the occupant could, he believes, be used far more profitably by instruments.

Boyd believes the space effort is premature rather than useless. When exploration of other planets is imminent, sending a man will be more desirable than relying on such gadgets as remote controlled robots. However ingenious, robots will always be at a disadvantage due to the time taken by control signals in traveling to and from earth.

Boyd is also on the staff of University college, London, where much of the British space exploration work, including some of the field experiments on the Woomera rocket range in Australia, is centered.



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