

Small Worlds Around Us

By LYNN M. WATKINS

(Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1963)

Sorry, You Just Can't Get Banana Oil From Bananas

One would naturally expect that the origin of various types of oils - olive oil, corn oil, soybean oil, castor oil, fish oil and many others - is tied to the plant or animal whose name it carries.

But there's something a little fishy about another oil which we are all rather familiar. That one just doesn't come from where its name would indicate. We never did get banana oil from bananas.

Squeeze as hard as you can, and you can't even get juice from them, let alone oil.

It's downright peculiar, too, for there is a great deal of banana oil used. Most folks have used it some time or other, or have at least smelled it. It smells just like bananas; that's why it is called banana oil. But the stuff was never any closer to a genuine banana than you are, right now, To Timbuktu.

Strange Fruit

The absence of banana oil in the banana is little stranger than many other common facts about this tropical fruit: seeds, for one thing. It is a rare plant that produces fruit without seeds, but the banana accomplishes it. Banana seeds are more scarce than "hen's teeth"; there just aren't any produced.

The tiny specks you may notice in the pulp of a ripe banana are remnants of seeds, but they are only pieces. The plant does not grow from seeds but from shoots which come up from the underground root system.

When a banana plant finally succeeds in producing a bunch of fruit, it "turns up its leaves" and dies. Before it expires, however, it makes some arrangements for future bananas. It sends up a shoot or two which later develop into a banana plant.

You have heard about a banana tree, but surprisingly, there is no such thing. To be a tree a plant has to develop a woody stem. The trunk of the banana plant is composed merely of the ends of the

leaves wrapped around one another, each leaf forming a concentric sheath.

Long ago before the banana became a common household article, it grew and developed in China and India. But it does as well in its newer American home, the tropical section of our hemisphere, as it ever did in the Orient.

The banana grows its fruit in bunches composed of "hands," and the entire assembly grows on the plant in an upside down position. If a banana is subjected to a low temperature, it loses its banana flavor. Whip a ripe banana and it turns to a thick, creamy liquid.

But no matter how hard you beat it, you can't get banana oil from a banana. Banana oil is produced chemically; it doesn't come from bananas. But it sure smells like it does.

Openings Available In Nursing Course

Mrs. Thomas Donahue, Red Cross nursing instruction chairman, announced today that valley residents may still register for the Care of the Sick and Injured class scheduled to start Tuesday, April 2, at 7:30 p.m. at Rogue Valley hospital.

Students will be instructed in standard home nursing procedures, how to cope with home emergencies, nursing care under special conditions, causes and symptoms of illness and community health.

The 12-hour class will be taught on consecutive Tuesday and Thursday evenings by Mrs. Natalie Reichenberg, a qualified Red Cross instructor.

There will be no charge for the course now being organized; however, Mrs. Donahue said that registration should be made in advance as the class will be limited in number. Registration may be made by calling the Red Cross office, 772-4405.

Tooth Decay Cut by More Than Half in Fluoridation Program

By A. ROBERT SMITH

Mail Tribune

Washington Correspondent

Washington (Special) - Dramatic evidence of the effectiveness of fluoridation in sharply reducing tooth decay has been revealed here by city officials of the nation's capital.

The program for chemically treating the water supply has cut dental decay rates by more than half since it began over 10 years ago in June, 1962.

This finding was based on

the largest and longest area study yet made to determine the consequence of adding sodium silicofluoride to the water supply. It is based on dental examinations of more than 1 1/2 million youngsters in the public and parochial schools, according to Dr. A. Harry Ostrow, chief of the District of Columbia Health Department's Bureau of Dental Health.

Insidious Effort

The question of adopting a fluoridation program has been a hot issue in numerous Oregon cities during this same decade. Inflammatory campaigns against fluoridation have been waged in many communities, often by persons who charged that it represented an insidious effort to poison the American population. Plans of officials in many cities have been blocked by such propaganda campaigns when the issue was put to a vote of local citizens.

Because the citizens living in Washington, D.C., have not in many years been permitted to vote, the issue has never been one for the local water users to decide in a referendum. It was adopted by city officials after various U.S. Public Health Service reports and investigations indicated that dental health among children would improve with fluoridation.

Before the program was launched in 1962, all school children were examined to determine the prevalence of decayed, missing and filled teeth. Similar examinations were made each successive year as the program advanced.

These examinations showed that in 1951-52 the 6-year-olds had a DMF (decayed, missing or filled) tooth rate of .22 per child. That is, about one child out of five at that age had some dental trouble.

The rate for 6-year-olds in 1961 had dropped to .09 per child, or only about one child in every eleven youngsters had any tooth trouble.

This represents a 59.1 per cent reduction in the incidence of decayed, missing or filled teeth in youngsters who were born after the program began and had the benefit of fluoridation from birth, assuming they lived in the Washington area during those six years.

Trouble Had Dropped

As the age of the children examined in 1961 increased, the comparison with children their same age 10 years before showed less improvement. Dental trouble for 9-year-olds, for example, had dropped by 46 per cent, for 11-year-olds by about 30 per cent, for 16-year-olds by about 15 per cent.

Doctor Ostrow said practicing dentists report that they can see the difference in the mouth's of today's children, who seldom have cases of crumbling badly decayed teeth, unless they have moved to Washington from a non-fluoridated city.

These findings take into account a unique feature of the Washington, D.C., school population - its change in

proportion from white to Negro. The results were adjusted to take into account the less prevalence of tooth decay among Negro children, otherwise the findings would have shown a more marked change between 1952 and 1961.

The most accepted theory on the reason for a greater incidence of decay in whites than Negroes is that more of the latter race are less economically privileged and more apt to eat plainer foods and fewer sugared foodstuffs.

The cost of fluoridation here has been eight cents per person yearly.

Picture Showing Communists In Europe Scheduled

"My Latvia," a motion picture describing the Communist take-over of eastern European countries, will be shown at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Medford High school auditorium. The Rev. Claude G. Pike, Portland radio commentator, has announced.

The picture, produced by the United States Information Service from films taken by an official of the Latvian government, smuggled from behind the Iron Curtain, portrays the Communist conquest.

It is the same grim pattern still followed as late as Cuba, Mr. Pike said in announcing the Medford showing. "It reveals how the Communists released hardened criminals and placed them in top leadership. It also shows how clergymen, police officials, lawyers, teachers and other civic leaders were marked for torture and liquidation."

Showing of the picture is part of the Christian Americanism seminar to be conducted during the afternoon by Mrs. Claude Pike.

Following the discussion of current topics, Mr. Pike will speak. He has spent 25 years as an ordained minister in the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren denominations in nation-wide speaking tours and as a radio commentator.

There will be no admission charge for the motion picture or the seminar.

SEEKS DAMAGES

Blackburn, England - (UPI) - Poultry farmer Hindie Taylor sought \$1,000 damages from George Corta in court Thursday because the horse Corta sold him wasn't worth \$336. Hindie said the mare, Sundowner, was at least 10 years older than Corta said, had a bent leg, couldn't jump a fence, was frightened of traffic, and was not, as advertised, "one of the finest horses in England."

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SERVICE DEPARTMENT MONTGOMERY WARD

773-5561 835 S. Riverside

Washington - (UPI) - President Kennedy has named Leland J. Haworth, a member of the Atomic Energy commission since 1961, to succeed Dr. Alan T. Waterman as director of the National Science Foundation.

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