

Girl, 14, Contributes To Science Research Field

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A 14-year-old girl preparing an exhibit for a junior high school science fair may have contributed significant new knowledge to research on antibiotic molds.

That's the report from scientists at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research who have examined several mold cultures grown by Dorothy Jeanne Dragoo.

a ninth grade student at the Mount Rainier, Md., Junior High School. Dorothy's project for a recent science fair at her school was to grow several mold cultures under different conditions to determine whether varying wave lengths of light had any effect on their development.

She used very simple equipment.

The mold cultures were grown in the standard "gunk"—a jelly-like substance called dextrose agar. Dorothy covered some of the trays with cellophane of various colors, including red, green, yellow and blue, so that the light would pass through them onto the molds. She left a few control batches exposed to normal light, and some were kept in total darkness.

Her first experiments indicated that the amount and wave length of light falling on a culture does make a detectable difference in the characteristics of the mold.

One of the judges at the science fair told Dorothy this was a "very interesting" finding, and encouraged her to discuss her work with experts at the Walter Reed Institute where much basic research on antibiotic molds is conducted.

Dorothy, daughter of Maj. and Mrs. Don H. Dragoo of (2228 Charleston Pl.) Lewisdale, Md., talked over her project with Charlotte Campbell, head of the institute's Medical Mycology section, and with one of her associates, John P. Reilly. They told Dorothy her molds could yield useful knowledge for science if she would continue her experiments.

Following Reilly's advice, Dorothy took small pieces of the mold she had grown in the dark and under the red and blue cellophane and put this "second generation" into fresh agar where they were permitted to develop under varying, controlled conditions.

"It probably will be necessary to grow several more generations of mold to prove or disprove whether these mutations are stable characteristics," Dorothy said.

She is developing her studies from two basic types of molds—an *Aspergillus* species considered to be non-infectious, and *Trichophyton rubrum*, a common cause of athlete's foot and other skin infections. The latter is distinguished by a red pigment.

Two new factors, however, have been noted in Dorothy's fungi: (1) A possible antibiotic substance of the *Aspergillus* molds (which forms as globules of moisture) is produced earlier in their growth and (2) when grown in the dark, the *Aspergillus* loses its green pigment as it produces the antibiotic, while the *Trichophyton rubrum*'s red pigment becomes considerably dimmed and produces no antibiotic.

Whether Dorothy has produced a useful antibiotic is yet to be determined, Miss Campbell said. But she said the project is "scientifically useful" and "might lead to a new medically useful antibiotic too."

Indians Say White Man Cheated On Heap Big Deal

By WILLIAM C. FOGARTY
United Press International

OMAHA (UPI) — Sometime between now and December the Great White Father in Washington will make a decision which could mean much wampum in the wikipups of a small band of Pawnee Indians.

The Pawnee have entered a claim that the white man tossed too few beads on the blanket when he purchased more than 23 million acres of hunting ground that now makes up a large chunk of central Nebraska and a thin strip of northern Kansas.

This alleged financial scalping took place back in the mid-1890's.

For four days in Omaha recently, lawyers for the Pawnee presented evidence to two Indian Claims Commissioners with the purpose of showing that the pony soldiers spoke with a forked tongue when they convinced the chiefs their land was worth only \$1,087,163.

They claim it was actually worth almost 29 million dollars. A government appraiser who testified before the commission placed the value of the land at the time of the treaties at \$6,139,310.

In view of the fact that only 1,800 Pawnee remain of the tribe of plains Indians which once numbered 25,000, any settlement will mean TV in the teepees and Cadillacs in the old corral for each of the tribesmen. The tribe is now settled in Oklahoma.

Even a half-way compromise in appraisal would mean close to \$10,000 for each and every member of the tribe. That's a brave bankroll in anybody's tribe.

The claims presented by the Pawnee cover five tracts in all. Some is good farm land, some is good for cattle grazing. They extend from the Nebraska Sandhills southward to the northern tier of counties in Kansas.

Indian appraisers T. C. Hitchings Jr. and E. B. Horton of Denver, and John R. Houser of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, valued the former hunting grounds at \$1.30 per acre.

That's a lot of calico over what government appraiser Dr. William G. Murray of Iowa State College at Ames figured was the actual value of the land. He set the figure at \$0.266 per acre.

Attorneys for the Redmen have until July 1 to file briefs and findings of fact. The government has until August 1 to submit similar data.

After that, Commissioners Louis J. O'Marr and William M. Holt, both of Lincoln, Nebraska, will hand down their decision.

A group of Pawnee attending the hearing in Omaha included George H. Roberts, president of the tribal council and son of the late Rush Roberts, last of the Pawnee Indian Scouts.

A reporter asked the Indians what they'd do if the Great White Father decided to solve the whole

thing by giving the Pawnee back their land instead of paying out any money.

The Pawnee looked at one another, laughed nervously and then went back to their time-honored deadpan expression.

VETERAN ACTOR

HOLLYWOOD (UPI)—Nine-year-old Keven Corcoran, picked for the title role in Walt Disney's "Toby Tyler," is a veteran actor despite his age. He has appeared in a dozen films.



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