

Algae Plant May Play Vital Role In World Soon

By LEON BURNETT
United Press International

WASHINGTON (UPI) — One of nature's simplest plants is figuring in some mighty big plans these days — including manned space flights.

Scientists are finding out more and more about algae, which probably were among the first forms of vegetation to grow on the earth, and still are going strong.

Those who hold to the theory that an expanding world population may one day bring about a food crisis are keeping an eye on these developments. Because algae can be used for food.

Researchers also predict that algae may become a rich source of vitamins, animal feed, fertilizer and other valuable organic products.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has announced that algae may play a key part in man's pioneering flights into space. Aboard a space vehicle, the fast-growing plants would absorb the carbon dioxide breathed out by the astronauts and furnish them with oxygen in return.

The spacemen could use the algae as food. And so that they could have meat as well as vegetable, they could feed small animals on the algae while in flight.

Algae vary in type and sizes from the microscopic growths which cause the phenomenon of red-tinted snow to the kelp plants found at the bottom of the sea and which stretch 600 feet or more.

Algae grow in fresh water, in the ocean and on land. Most seaweeds are algae — and some types of seaweed have been a staple of the diet in the Orient for many years.

Probably the best-known form, though, is the green scum that forms in ponds and lakes and provides rich fare for fish.

The fresh-water algae now promise to help man solve the growing problem of disposing of sewage in big cities.

For the past eight years, Dr. C. M. Palmer and Harold J. Walter have been doing research in this field at the U.S. Public Health Service's Sanitary Engineering Center in Cincinnati.

They have just issued a booklet describing their work. It is designed primarily as a guidebook for operators of waterworks and disposal systems.

The best system found to date for decomposing sewage after it has been run through settling basins, filters and so on is to dump in certain bacteria or other micro-organisms.

The reason algae can be so important in this field: They are capable of supporting immense populations of the type of bacteria used.

'Last' Man Has Troubles

CUMBERLAND, R.I. (UPI) — Francis W. Zyons has a "last man" problem. His name is listed last in the current Providence and Vicinity telephone directory.

The problem is nothing new for Zyons—he's been the last man for eight years.

"And it's no joke, either," he says. "Especially when creepy guys call me at 2 a.m. just to find out what the last guy in the book sounds like. What am I—a freak or something?"

Zyons, who is a paper-slinger in a paper plant, allows as how there's just one advantage to being the last name listed: "That's whenever I meet someone who needs my number, and all I have to do is tell them to look at the end of the book. That's me."

He averages two calls a week from strangers. And a lot of them are from "shaky guys in bars who tell me they picked my name out of the book because it was the last one—just so they could talk to me. They usually say, 'Hi, Buddy. Come down and have a drink. Must be tough to be the last man in the phone book.'"

"I tell 'em to have one on me, and I hang up."

Zyons says he's complained to the telephone company, but they've told him there's nothing they can do except to get an unlisted number. "And that's a bit too expensive right now, so I sweat it out."

Zyons can't always be sure when he is being kidded. There was one time: "A fella said he was calling me from a Providence radio station. Told me to name the mystery song. I was on the verge of tracing the call so I could go down and let him have it. But my wife just happened to turn on the station and could hear this guy talking to me. I won a buck."

Annie Oakley Beats Father

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (UPI) — Twelve-year-old Marilyn Hazen bagged the largest caribou of the season with one shot while on her second hunting trip.

The eighth-grade student made the kill in the Oshentna River area while hunting with her father, M.Sgt. Lynn Hazen of Elmendorf Air Force Base, Anchorage.

The huge caribou is being entered in the North American Big Game Trophy competition. Sgt. Hazen didn't get a shot during the trip.



TALL STORY — Handy man to have on this job is James Fowler, sticking his head out of a Convair jet airliner on the assembly line in San Diego. But not to stretch the truth, the legs belong to fellow worker inside the fuselage, I. S. Smith.

Science Eyes Heart Ills

OMAHA, Neb. (UPI)—Is it true that eating certain foods might keep a person from having heart trouble?

This is one of a series of questions being put to patients at the Cardiac Clinic at the Creighton University School of Medicine.

The investigators, sophomore medical student Tom Moylan and Dr. Harle Barrett, are trying to determine the relationship of diet to heart disease.

Moylan and Barrett have a strong hunch that what you eat has a direct effect on your heart. But they say they haven't seen any conclusive proof of it.

Moylan and Barrett are trying to tie the high incidence of heart disease in obese (fat) people to a high intake of calories. They hope to substantiate this long-accepted theory with statistics from the study.

Barrett says the field is "just beginning to be worked on."

Some work has been done, he said, on the use of animal versus vegetable fats and the relation of each to heart disease.

"But I haven't seen anything along this line," he said.

HUNG-UP JUROR

BURLINGTON, Vt. (UPI) — Frank Hart became the man who wasn't there when he "completely forgot" about being a juror in a \$1,500 contract case and reported to his regular job instead.

Safety New School Class

STILLWATER, Okla. (UPI) — Students here will have to play it safe if they want to do well in the classroom.

Stillwater is the first city in the nation to include a full program of safety instruction in all elementary schools.

The program was designed by the Oklahoma Safety Council, which hopes to have it in operation in 5,000 classrooms next school year.

The program will provide teachers and students with special classroom materials, including lesson

workbooks, magazines and other selected items, all designed to impress the need for safety upon young minds.

Oklahoma Safety Council Manager Bob Eastman described the program, which has been underwritten by Stillwater's civic clubs at a cost of \$12 per classroom, as "one of the most important projects we have ever undertaken."

"The child of today," Eastman said, "is born into a world of thousands of potential hazards, most of them unknown 30 years ago. Basic safety knowledge is as necessary as the ABCs if today's child is to live in our mechanical world."

TV FRENCH LESSONS

BOSTON (UPI) — Nearly 60,000 Massachusetts elementary school pupils will take part in a three-year pioneer television course in French beginning in September. The Massachusetts Executive Committee for School Television said the French series will later be filmed for national distribution. Two 15-minute lessons will be viewed each week by children in the lower grades.

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They Live On \$10 A Week

MIAMI (UPI)—Three miles from beach hotels that charge \$100-a-day lies a wooded islet where five men live on \$10 a week.

They retreated to Lummus Island many years ago to escape the hurly-burly and high cost of modern living.

Four of the men eke out their living by fishing. They take what they need for their own tables and sell the rest to buy a few groceries and some gasoline for their small boats.

Only one of the island dwellers, Joe Dravet, has a regular job. He works as a tractor operator for the City of Miami Beach but returns to the lonely island every night.

When not working, the five spend their time dozing or watching the rolling surf. They have little communication with the rest of the world.

Their only friends are the officers of the harbor patrol who call on the men occasionally while cruising through Biscayne Bay.

Living expenses run about \$10 a week for each and sometimes less, they say. Their crude shacks, made mostly of driftwood, require little upkeep. Wilbur Pender, 60, who has lived on the islet 20 years, says his dwelling cost \$7 to build.

They pay no rent, no property taxes and have no utilities. The only modern convenience on Lummus is one portable radio.

The newest arrival is 75-year-old Joe Albury, a retiree fisherman who came to Lummus eight years ago.

"My doctor told me to take it easy," he explained.



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