

# Fred-Talks

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## Introduction to this Newsletter Issue

Hello again! Welcome to my newsletter. I hope you enjoy it or at least find it amusing. Or, perhaps, even irritating?

If you do not wish to receive more issues, please email a message to me and say, "Discontinue".

I occasionally bring up issues that are someone else's point of view, but are points that I think should

be discussed.

Should you have other views, please bring them up. I would be happy to include your comments with or without your by-line in the next **Fred-Talk**.

Fred G. Duerr, Ph.D.  
fgduerr@gmail.com

**Blog Site**  
[www.fredduerr.com](http://www.fredduerr.com)

### Website

[www.chemeco.com](http://www.chemeco.com)

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## Potable Water Pamphlet

I have been offering a brief lecture on potable water at **Hatfield Marine Science Center** in Newport, Oregon over the past seven months. The subject examines what potable water is, why it is necessary for human life, and where it is found.

I have been handing out a one page summary of the talk to members of the audience.

During the last few months I have had requests for a copy of my pamphlet from people out of the area (WA, MN, WI, & NC).

I don't know how these people got my name or knew of my **FRED-TALKS**. Since I have received these requests, but never even wrote a pamphlet on the subject, I thought, perhaps, I should write such a pamphlet, and offer it gratis to anyone who requests it.

Just send the request to **fgduerr@gmail.com** and I will email the copy to you.

If you are at the Hatfield Marine Science Center, ask at the main desk for your free copy.

If you request, I will mail a printed copy via U.S. post for \$1.00. Email the request and I'll send details.

By the way, the photograph below is of my favorite biologist. The location is Last Man Lake in Northern Minnesota.



*Does anyone know why these signs are all over Germany?*

## Global Warming

Many people are complaining that the noxious fumes emanating from cows contribute to global warming. The recommendation of these people is to reduce consumption

of beef and dairy products, thus eliminating the source of much of the carbon dioxide addition to our atmosphere and thereby reducing global warming.

I don't think these people consid-

ered that the millions of buffalo, elk, deer, antelope, moose, etc., that used to occupy the Great Plains of North America, also produced the same greenhouse gases.. Did they start the global warming cycle?



William Crocker  
By I B Streblov

## Portraits of Eminent Scientists — William Crocker

I have a personal collection of drawings of historically eminent scientists. I intend to post a drawing along with information about one of the scientists with each newsletter. These pictures will become part of my book, "History of Biology", in process.

William Crocker is known for his research on germination in seeds, effect of noxious gases on plants, and plant hormones. He was born at Medina, Ohio in 1876.

He influenced the understanding of the relationships between oxygen, carbon dioxide, and water in plant metabolism.

His work on permeability of water into plant cells and plant zonation is still cited in the literature.

William Crocker directed the Boyce Thompson Institute to foster research in plant physiology. This institute, a part of Cornell University is still very active.



I have read most of Remarque's books 2 or 3 times. They are the only books that I have read that affected me that much.

These books cover living conditions in Germany and France during and after World War I. I can think of no better description of what it was like for ordinary people during those periods.

The first book I'll mention is *Three Comrades*, the story of three students who were essentially drafted out of school into the German army. This is one of the best exemplifications of the phrase "War is Hell".

The second book I'll mention is *The Black Obelisk*. This story revolves around the

survival of ex-soldiers during the post war time of severe monetary inflation. That is the time when people used to collect their wages several times a day to try to keep up with the rampant inflation.

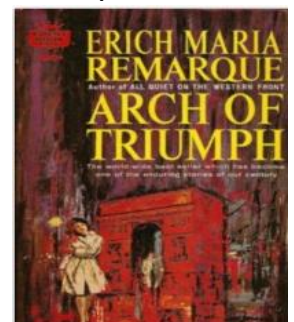
The friends ate together in a restaurant where they paid for their meal with tickets that they had previously purchased. This story also, as in *Three Comrades*, had a sad ending.

The third book takes place in Paris, France some years after World War I. Paris, at that time, was the home of hundreds of ex-patriots from Germany, Russia, etc. These people tended to band together and try to find meaning in life.

I find myself quoting from these books on occasion. They were originally written in German, but the English translations show a lovely prose and are a joy to read.

Several of Remarque's novels have been made into motion pictures. As usual, the motion pictures are not quite the same as the books, but are worth seeing. F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote a screen play based on *Three Comrades*.

I have thought of these stories and characters often for more than 40 years.



## Food For Thought

### How Do Brains Work?

When I was about ten years old, my father rented an apartment to an elderly spinster woman with two children in her care. She did not have much money and it was difficult for her to feed her family and pay the rent.

In her younger days she played piano in silent movie theaters. She also played piano wherever she could and gave lessons to children. She asked my father if she could partially pay for her rent by giving me piano lessons. My father agreed, and I took piano lessons.

I became fairly good at it, and in high school received a scholarship to take lessons from a professional pianist in Minneapolis. I continued to improve my playing and won a Minnesota Music Teacher Association contest.

My teacher insisted that my piano was kept in tune, and had her son-in-law, a string-bass player with the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra tune it.

Through my piano tuner and contacts with other symphony players, I learned that most professional musicians

needed other jobs to earn a living. Because of that, and because I didn't think I was good enough to be a concert musician, I decided to major in chemistry. I wasn't sure I wanted to be a chemist, but I thought that chemistry would be a help for any other science area I might go into. One thing piano gave me was the ability to use both hands. I can write with either one.

I entered the University of Minnesota as a chemistry major one year prior to graduation from high school. I do not have a high school diploma. I became interested in water balance, and continued school until I received a Ph.D. degree.

I have read a bit about the different functions of the two hemispheres of the brain. One side is supposed to be better at analytical processes, and the other side is supposed to be better at creative process. Carl Zimmer in Discover Magazine suggests that this is not so.

I have personally found that I can memorize music in two ways. I can remember note by note, but I also remember finger placement, tempo, and rhythm in a different fashion. If I don't know what note or notes to start with, I can place my hands on the keyboard and start to play. Sometimes my notes are three or four half-steps higher or lower than what is written,

but I can play the piece.

If I stop or am stopped in the middle of a phrase, I become lost. If I have not memorized a starting sequence of notes, I stay lost. And, I certainly play music faster than I can read it.

My questions are then, is one hemisphere of my brain controlling relative hand position, tempo, and rhythm. Is the other hemisphere controlling the note-by-note function? How can I place my hands on the keyboard without looking at the keyboard?

I will conclude this by saying that other animals demonstrate "handed-ness". Many birds have demonstrated a preference for one foot over the other when taking flight or landing. I recently read that whereas people express emotion in the front and lower part of their head, dogs express emotion on the top of their head (eyes and ears).

Do we have to include top/down theories as well as left-right theories in our study of "handed-ness"? And then, all parts of the brain work in tandem with all the other parts of the brain. I give up!



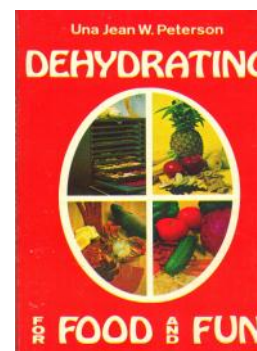
### Free Book on Dehydrating Foods

I have several dozen copies of Una Jean W. Peterson's book "Dehydrating for Food and Fun". These are my own personal copies, and I am willing to give these books away.

Send me an email, and you can pick up a free copy from me (when I am on duty) at Oregon State University Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC). I will also leave some at the

counter.

These books are free, but if I mail one to you, the postage and wrapping is \$3.96. Send me an email for details..



***Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend.***

***Inside a dog, it is too dark to read.***

Groucho Marx

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## Recent Fred-Talk at the Hatfield Marine Science Center

Last Saturday, after I finished my Water Talk at Hatfield, I walked by the children's coloring table. A couple of adults were busily coloring (with crayons) on pictures placed there for children to color.

I stopped, admired their activities, and continued about my business. When I returned, the

couple showed me their handiworks as they posted them on the bulletin board .

We then proceeded to have one of the more delightful conversations than I have had in a long time.

The had been amusing themselves by coloring

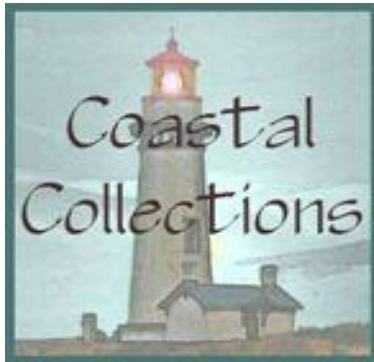
while their children were looking at exhibits. After a great deal of laughter and banter, we all went our separate ways.

The very next day I received an email from them in which they told me how much they enjoyed our conversation. The email also contained a poem. I like it.

*Days of precipitous moisture don't faze me at all  
I embrace each winter, though it may be my last  
Knowing well, the winds boisterous attitude  
Some how just wont last  
The ocean waves will tower  
Pound the sand and foam  
And i will stand there shirtless, bare foot and alone  
Though it may be blowing chilly wet and cold  
I'll never miss the opportunity to let it  
Cleanse my soul.....jrw     John Wooten*

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## Crass Commercials



I have written a small, 54 page primer on water. It is designed to give basic information to the general public.

It is available as a paperback book (Water, by Fred Duerr),

**ISBN 1482773872.**

My wife, Diana, and I have somehow acquired several thousand books on various subjects. Click on the image at left to take you to our website, where you can search our inventory of books for sale at Biblio.com.

It is also available as a Kindle, from Amazon.

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