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# MURMURS OF EARTH

108

### 75. Cotton Harvest

We felt we had to have a picture of mechanized agriculture, and these cotton pickers were chosen because the white cotton shows up the swath of the harvester clearly. In fact the cotton can be seen, tossed into the air above the machine. There is enough similarity in appearance between the field of cotton and the field of daffodils (picture 50) to make it obvious that something growing is being picked. The following pictures show how we obtain and eat our food, and this picture serves as an introduction, even though cotton is not normally thought of as a food (unless you are Milo Minderbinder in Catch-22).

# 76. Man with Grapes

Originally selected as a close-up of hands and a face, this plainly shows a human being stuffing his mouth, Functional anatomists may note that three very different functions of the hand are also shown. The things he is eating look as if they may be of natural origin, suggesting that we don't yet produce food in factories. (Photograph by David Moore: Grape Picker).

### 77. Supermarket

Here is another person eating grapes, but this time in a location that adds more information-namely, that we don't all get grapes from the fields; some of us buy them in markets. There are a variety of other foodstuffs in bins in the background, some marked numerically with prices. A recipient society with an economy that involves money, buying, and selling might even deduce that these are in fact prices. Frank Drake had decided that we had to have a picture of a market or food store, and it was easier to take our own picture than to spend days looking for one. Five of us, including Herman Eckelmann, the NAIC staff photographer, trooped off to the local supermarket. With Frank in the lead, we began loading up carts with foods. Eckelmann ran around taking photographs. The other shoppers soon gave us a wide berth. Predictably, the manager came over and politely asked what the hell we were doing. Frank did the talking, and while the rest of us tried to look appropriately serious, one of the world's great astronomers explained to a suspicious store manager that we wanted to send his supermarket to the stars. We put most of the food back on the shelves (causing more bewilderment), paid for the grapes, and left.







# 78. Diver and Fish

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# 79. Fishing Boats

It may be deduced that the nets these Greek fishermen are pulling in are for catching the fish, since the next picture shows fish being cooked. The boat is primitive in relation to the technology in some other pictures, showing various stages in our technological development.

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