

Baby Feeding Has Startling Historic Facts

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (INS)—Some startling historical facts concerning the feeding of infants have been uncovered by a senior in the University of Michigan medical school.

John W. Burgess of Rockland Island, Ill., wasn't able to discover who first put the burp in baby's formula, but he did find:

An Egyptian formula dating back to 1500 B.C., said to encourage milk production in mothers by mixing a fragrant bread with poppyseed—then having the mother eat the concoction while sitting cross-legged.

The Egyptians also were aware of wet nursing. Wealthy fathers were able to contract the services of a wet nurse for periods up to six months.

Comes to Fore
Pediatric medicine—according to Burgess' findings—first came to the fore in the Greco-Roman period. Soranus of Ephesus (98 A.D.) was called the father of pediatricians.

Soranus advised that infants be allowed to go hungry for two days after birth and that a wet nurse should be hired on the third day. Then, the Mediterranean medico suggested the child be returned to its mother for feeding on the fourth day.

No Wine
Literature on infant care in the Middle Ages was as dark as everything else at that time. However, a Mohammedan physician named Avicenna handed down one piece of advice. He suggested that mothers exclude wine from the infant diet except for anesthetic reasons.

The Renaissance, on the other hand, brought forth new ideas to child care. Pediatric literature was born everywhere and new mothers scarcely knew which way to turn when confronted with the new, controversial question of "schedule" or "demand" feeding.

First Physician
The first physician who was brave enough to record his thoughts on "demand" feeding was Dr. Bartholomew Mettlinger. In 1474 he advised mothers not to wake a child to nurse him.

Dr. Mettlinger further advocated supplemental feeding and also took a stand against the use of too much meat in the infant diet because "too strong meat causes worms to grow."

A Neopolitan named Baldini fathered the modern baby bottle in 1784. It was the shape of a gourd, was made of pewter, and had a sponge instead of a nipple at the sucking end.

Baldini's bottle might have had something to do with the world wrestling in the throes of revolution about that time.

Dust Storm Relief Passes

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate Wednesday passed and sent to the House a 15-million-dollar emergency appropriation for dust storm relief in drought areas.

It quickly and unanimously approved the appropriation which was tacked onto a catch-all money bill by Chairman Bridges (R-NH) of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The House, which has approved other items in the bill, is expected to give quick approval.

The secretary of agriculture would be empowered to pay up to a dollar an acre this year and next year to farmers who agree to follow soil conservation practices aimed at preventing and reducing wind erosion. Usual rules and regulations covering payments are waived.

A dozen senators testified to need for emergency aid in states hard-hit by recent dust storms including Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado and New Mexico.

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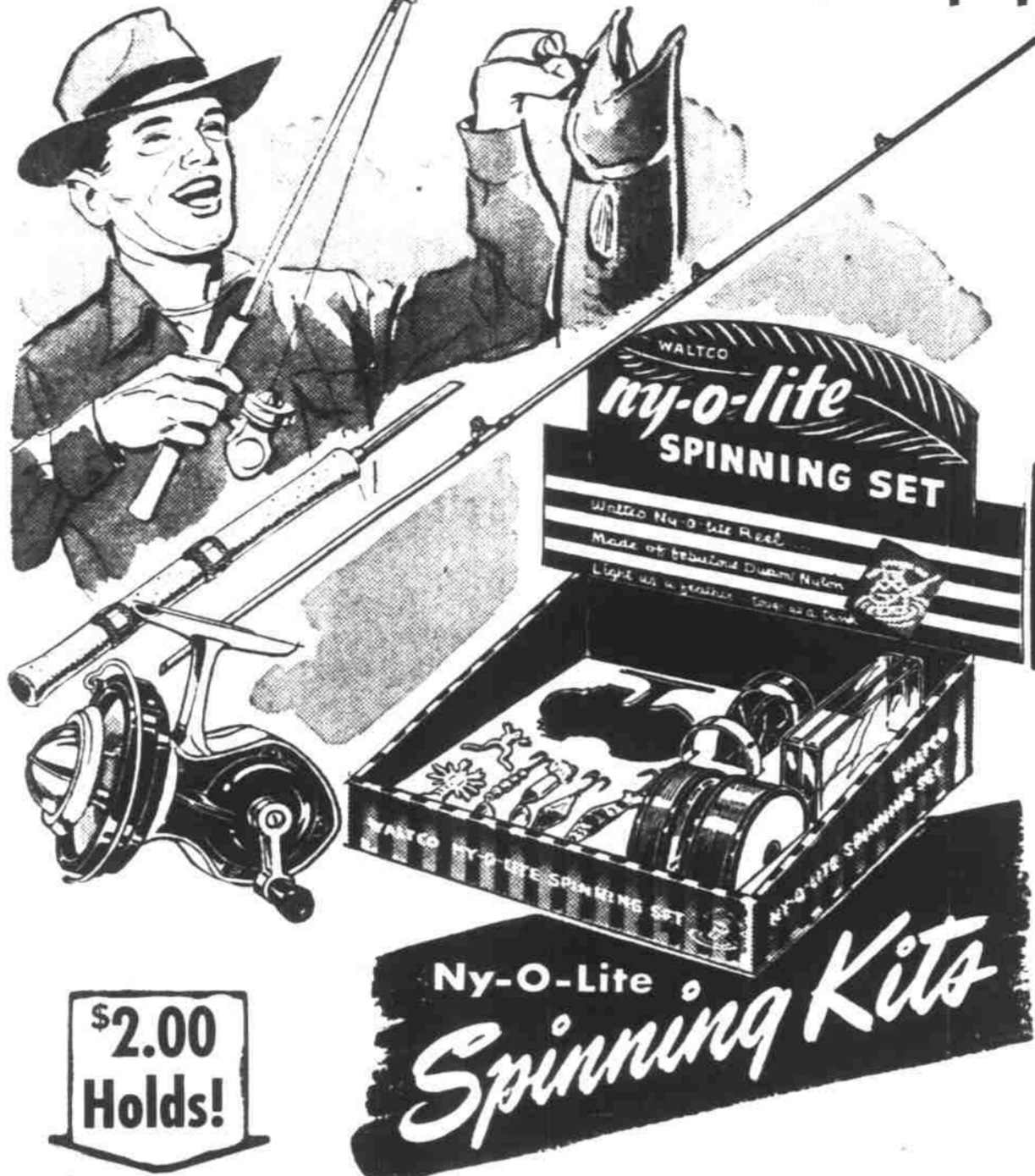
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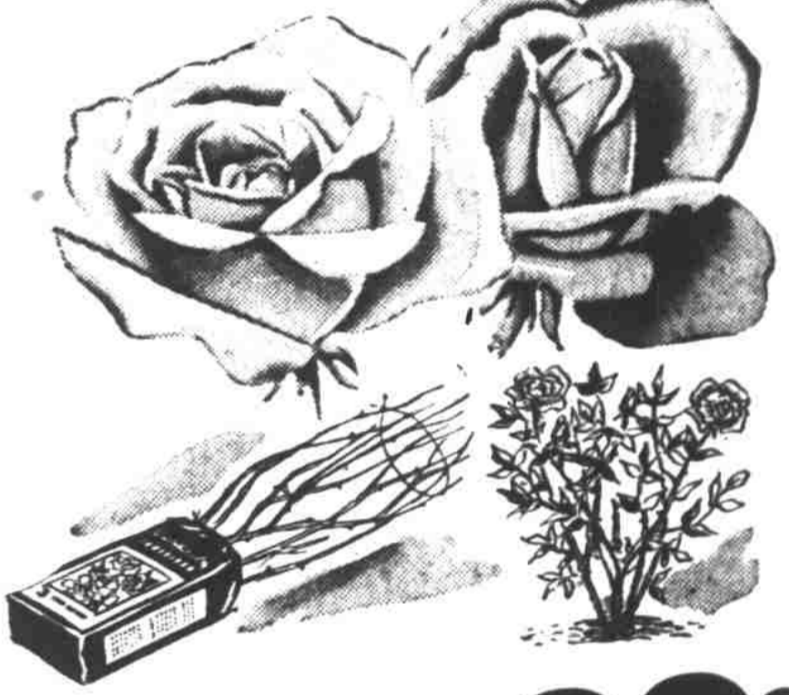
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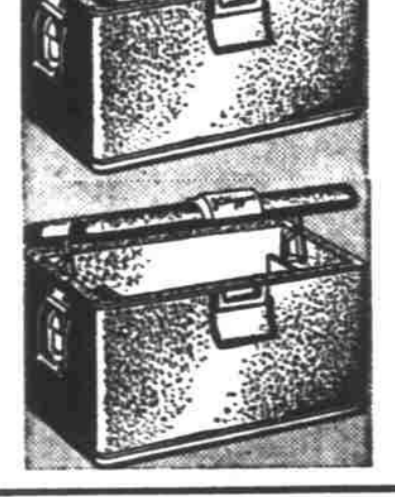
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