

New Fibres Used To Make Carpets

By Elizabeth Toomey
United Press Staff Correspondent
New York, Dec. 21 (U.P.)—Man-made fibres will replace wool in at least one-fourth of next year's carpets, the manufacturers say, since imported carpet wools are getting increasingly scarce.

"Besides," said Adolph Klein, a technical director of the James Lee Carpet Co., "wool prices jumped as much as 125 per cent in the last year." At those prices, manufacturers figured gloomily, bare floors would have a sudden vogue in home decorating.

The answer, temporarily at least, is carpeting made from rayon fibres specifically engineered to be sturdy enough for use underfoot.

"We're coming out with a carpet made of all cellulose acetate which will sell for around \$69 in a nine-by-twelve," Klein said. "A shaggy texture that uses 90 per cent acetate and 10 per cent nylon will be more expensive—about \$15 a square yard," Klein added, however, that the same mixture in all-wool cost \$19 a square yard.

Look Like Wool
The man-made revolution against unsuspecting foreign sheep won't look as startling on American floors as it sounds. Rayon fibre carpets look almost exactly like all-wool carpets. In many cases, wool and rayon fibres are blended.

"We've been experimenting with these wool substitutes for several years," explained one manufacturer, "but until the price of wool jumped so drastically it wasn't economically sound to use them."

Seems that wools from China, once considered the best for carpets, are unavailable now, and other good sources like India, Pakistan and Argentine put heavy government taxes on their wools. "Our own sheep," explained Klein, "just don't live under conditions rugged enough to produce good wool for carpets."

Floors may be brighter as a result of all this. The rayon fibres, designers say, take clearer, brighter colors than wool. If anybody's interested in an all-white carpet, one manufacturer pointed out that a pure white was possible with the new fibres, where an off-white was the best managed in wool carpeting.

Cinnamon, amethyst and smoke are three new trend-setting colors in plain color carpets. But carpets with a subdued, tone-on-tone pattern in soft shades of green and grey still rank top favorites, manufacturers report, whether they come from a chemist's test tube or an Argentine sheep.

No Coast Guard Ban on Photos

Duluth, Minn. (U.P.)—The U. S. coast guard, charged with the protection of the nation's coast lines, has not found it necessary to impose any emergency restrictions in the Duluth-Superior harbor area because of the Korean war.

Camera fans can still take pictures of the dock area, Cmdr. Stanley Rovinsky, coast guard inspection officer and captain of the port of Duluth, says.

Furthermore, Rovinsky says he has no knowledge of restrictions being planned for this area in the future.

MARE TOO FRIENDLY
Portland, Me. (U.P.)—Everywhere that Sally Friend goes her Palomino mare is sure to go.

When Sally left her Pittsfield home to attend Westbrook Junior college, she took her mare, Sanoaks Della, along and housed it at a nearby stable. Sanoaks Della shows her gratitude by winning trophies and ribbons at horse shows.

Italian Parliament Feels Stress of Post-War Events

By S. M. Bossi
(United Press Staff Correspondent)
Rome (U.P.)—Parliament's free medical center for alling deputies and senators is doing a booming business in everything from vitamins to blood transfusions for Italy's excitable deputies.

Dr. Giulio Lega, professor of pathological medicine at Rome university, said:

"Before the war, there were few occasions when the parliamentary doctor was needed. In the early post-war period, we had rush business for a time with bruises and lacerations caused in the fist fights that broke out so often."

"This year we can hardly handle the business because every member of parliament feeling he ought to see a doctor comes here now instead of going outside and paying."

During the fascist reign, the parliamentary doctor's major business was just standing by in case someone collapsed in his chair. There were no such things as fist fights in the Duce's parliament.

"Fist fights stopped quite awhile back in the new parliament," Lega said. "Everybody is using his voice more now and complaining of all sorts of throat ailments."

He has had one case of blood transfusion, several of anemia and a scattering of small injuries to treat this year. Nervous exhaustion tops the list of complaints, however, and he dispenses vitamin tablets lavishly to drooping orators.

The most important chore handled by Lega since the war, and one which was "more difficult because of the person involved," was the first aid given to the communist party chief, Palmiro Togliatti, in the corridor of parliament when he was shot three times by an assassin in 1948.

"Togliatti lost a lot of blood very rapidly and there wasn't

much time for first aid, since we had to get him to the hospital fast for an emergency operation," Lega said. "The center worked very smoothly and we were ready when the ambulance pulled up."

Lega said the general health of Italy's parliamentarians is "quite good," although the average age is 55 "and there are a lot of mild complaints, especially when the weather gets bad."

His biggest headache is an occupational disorder, the lost voice.

BLIND, BUT A CARPENTER
Weymouth, Mass. (U.P.)—Although blind for 21 years, Wilfred Laramee, 62, works daily as a carpenter.

"You would be surprised how many deputies come in here speechless," he said. "They not only talk a lot but they get so heated and excited that they torture their throat muscles."

"I've had to ask for funds to buy an inhalator so that we can give throat treatments before a deputy launches into a long speech. The results should be interesting."

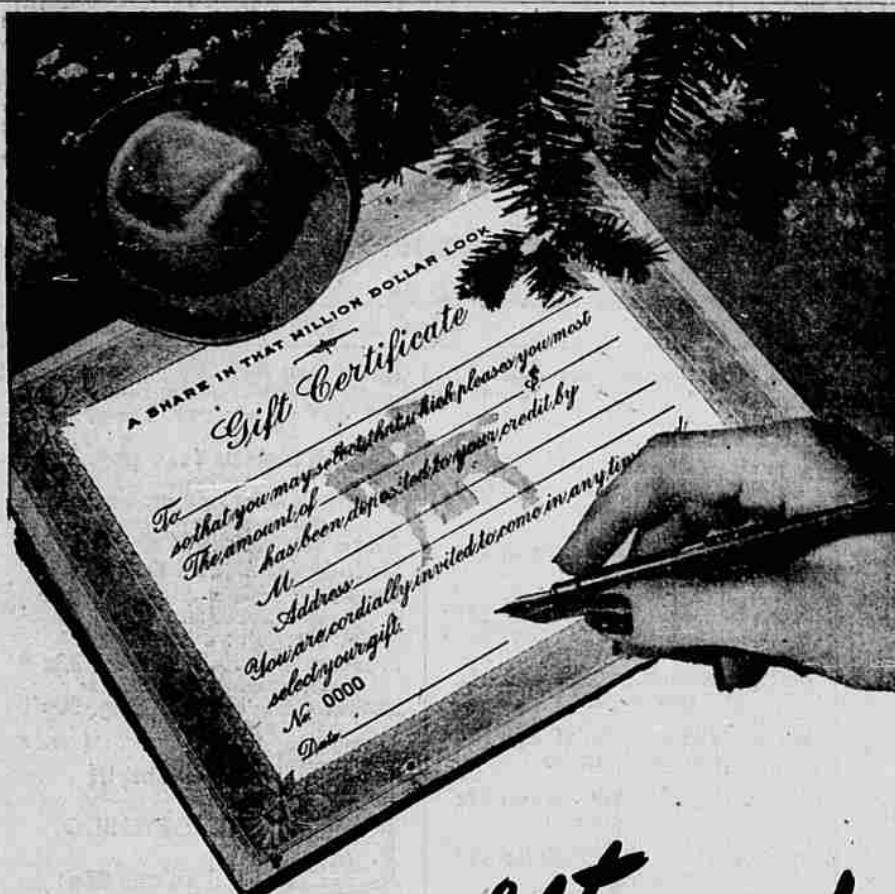
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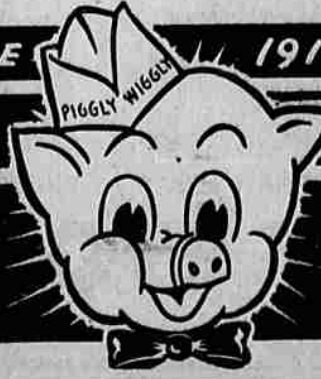
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