



ALL WARM—Marine Sgt. D. L. Pruitt (left) of Minneapolis gets a warm but tearful embrace from his sweetheart, Margie Martin after he was rescued from the Dismal Swamp near Suffolk, Va. Pruitt and another Marine were lost while searching for two lost hunters. The hunters were also rescued.

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Modern scientific research notwithstanding, we are surrounded today by many popular beliefs which simply are not so. To help dispel them, here's another round for fact vs. myth.

MYTH: A cold and wet nose marks a healthy dog.

FACT: Dogs with cold noses sometimes run a high temperature. Dogs with hot noses some-



times are perfectly normal.

MYTH: White eggs are more nutritious than brown eggs.

FACT: Eggs are eggs. Food value of eggs however may vary slightly regardless of whether they are brown or white. It's strictly dependant upon what the hen's been eating.

MYTH: The bite of our North American tarantula is highly poisonous—enough to kill a grown man within hours, minutes even, if he's unlucky enough to be bitten near an artery or on his head.

FACT: Not one of our North American tarantulas is dangerous to man. Furthermore they bite only under extreme provocation (such as prolonged teasing), if at all.

The effect of the tarantula bite, wherever it occurs, is less than that of an ordinary bee sting, little more than the mere mechanical hurt—or burn—of the incision. For that matter, a pin prick is more injurious potentially since the pin might be a carrier of infection whereas the tarantula's tiny fangs are exceptionally hygienic. What minor local swelling may appear is normally gone within 30 minutes or at most an hour. Exceedingly rare.

Even the poison of the largest spider in the world, the giant Brazilian tarantula, measuring eight or nine inches in length, is really toxic only to cold-blooded animals and has no effect on mammals, including man. There is one South American tarantula, much smaller than those in North America, which carries a poison said to be toxic to man. But even in its native habitat it is exceedingly rare.

MYTH: Our ancestors, the cave men, were bigger than we are.

FACT: Despite the popular illustrations of the cave man, man's average height today is greater. Judging from skeletons, almost two inches greater since the Stone Age. Environment has a great influence on the size of the body. Where living conditions are comparatively easy and food plentiful, men and women grow taller.

MYTH: The blacker the coffee, the stronger it is.

FACT: The color of a cup of coffee is not an indication of its strength. A dark roast of the coffee bean produces a darker brew. In this regard, local prejudices are curious: on the West Coast coffee drinkers demand a light roast, but as one travels eastward, it becomes darker and darker. In Louisiana, by the way, they like coffee which contains half chicory. And of this you may be sure: in every part of the world, coffee drinkers are dead sure that their own local coffee is the best in the world.

Street Pigeons
MYTH: Present-day pigeons are a comparatively recent development.

FACT: Pigeons similar to those found on our city streets have been associated with man since earliest times. Crude dwellings of such birds have been found on the walls of caves once inhabited by some of our remotest ancestors.

MYTH: Some animals' eyes give off light in the dark.

FACT: They don't. At least, they do not give off light of their own. They reflect light. For example, if we were to go into the woods at night with a flashlight and throw its beam into a bush we might see some little glitters of topaz, say, from a spider; or even glints of green witchfire from a stealthy fox.

These eyes shine in the same way as the roadside reflector button. Behind the retinas of these nocturnal animals is what amounts to a cluster of mirrors. The faint moonlight or starlight in which they have to do their seeing is reflected by these mirrors and thereby multiplied. But, to reiterate, they do not shine of themselves.

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UEW Controlled By Reds, Is Claim

Washington — (U.P.)—Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr. charged yesterday that the 100,000-member United Electrical Workers Union is controlled by a clique of Communists working to accomplish the aims of the Kremlin.

Brownell asked the Subversive Activities Control Board to declare the independent union a Communist infiltrated organization. A union so described by the SACB loses its rights before the National Labor Relations Board. Its members lose all other benefits under the Taft-Hartley act.

Brownell said his petition was designed to aid members of the union to "clean their organization of Communist dictators even as the CIO cleaned its organization in 1949 and 1950." UEW was one of five unions expelled by the CIO in those years on charges that they were dominated by Communists.

WCTU SUED FOR TAXES

Chicago — (U.P.)—Cook county officials filed a tax delinquency suit of \$56,139 against the Women's Christian Temperance Union. It charged that the training of anti-liquor missionaries at the society's Evanston headquarters does not make it tax exempt.

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Japan's Top Military Man Expecting Complicated War

Tokyo — (U.P.)—Japan's top military man, Gen. Keizo Hayashi, is "expecting the most complicated war in history" but doubts there will be any major fighting for at least three years.

He charged that the Japanese public's "jumping logic" is hindering the build-up of the new 180,000 man air, ground and sea self-defense forces and blamed part of the trouble on "Communist subversives."

In an exclusive interview, the chairman of the Japanese joint staff council predicted three possible types of war:

1—"The next world war could be a war without saying it's a war—a war of infiltration and subversion."

2—"Or it might be a war without atomic weapons. It could happen... something like Korea or Indo-China."

3—"And then it may be a war of the size and scale and methods now undreamed of..."

Retention Attitude
The 48-year-old general discussed the defeated and disarmed nation's new military power and stressed that it is a defense force.

"Because we were defeated, the basic sentiment here is still 'hate war'... and so—hate war, hate rearmament. That's the way the people think. It's jumping logic."

"The nation is not conscious enough of the self-defense force... and they don't understand it."

The general said flatly that this "lack of understanding" has been "aggravated by groups of Communist subversives." He refused to elaborate.

"To maintain peace," he said, "we need a defense force to protect our country. I hope public opinion is heading in that general direction."

Halfway Mark
The general glanced at two side-by-side models of the latest Russian and American super-

Paz Takes Formal Title to Properties

Buenos Aires — (U.P.)—Dr. Alberto Gainza Paz takes formal title today to the principal properties of the newspaper La Prensa, confiscated from him more than four years ago by deposed dictator Juan D. Peron.

The La Prensa building and the printing plant, six blocks away, were handed over Monday to Manuel Ordonez, chief counsel of the Paz family, but today's ceremony formally marks restitution of the properties.

Peron converted La Prensa into a propaganda organ for his CGT labor federation, which continued to run the paper until the present revolutionary government decided to return it to Gainza Paz. The newspaper is scheduled to reappear under his direction as soon as an inventory is completed.

sonic jet fighters in his office and commented:

"No one can predict beyond three years. 'But personally I'm expecting the most complicated war in history."

"It won't be as simple as past wars... and there may be many small wars inside the big war."

Asking about the possibility that Japan's dislike for war is so intense that its forces would do little fighting, Hayashi replied:

"Our troops hate aggressive war, but they are willing to sacrifice... and fight to the last man to keep any invading force away."

He said Japan's new American-equipped and trained armed forces are "preparing for any situation we might have to face."

Asked how soon Japanese forces would be capable of facing an enemy, the one-time lawyer answered, "you might say we are climbing Mt. Fuji at the halfway mark."

Japan is aiming next year for a 160,000-man ground force, about a 15,000-man air force with U.S. F-86 Sabrejets and a 422-vessel navy of around 23,000 men.

Independendnt Unions May Merge

St. Louis — (U.P.)—A committee representing two groups of independent labor unions yesterday urged unification of all the independents into a single organization to "protect" them from the AFL-CIO.

The committee, representing the National Independent Union Council and the Confederated Unions of America, called for a national convention next May to effect the organization and elect national officers.

Don Mahon, executive secretary of the NIUA, said all independent unions, representing "between 6 and 7,000,000 workers," would be invited to send delegates to the convention and join the organization.

Mahon said the new organization would unify more than 2500 independent unions in the nation.

Virgin Islanders Ask New Political Status

Charlotte Amalie, Virgin Islands — (U.P.)—A committee of citizens adopted a resolution Tuesday asking the U.S. Congress to grant the Virgin Islands the same political status Puerto Rico received in 1948.

Such status would give the Virgin Islands the right to elect a governor, now appointed by the American president, and to appoint a resident in Congress. It would also allow the legislature full powers to legislate on inter-famil matters, although reserving Congress the right to annul any legislation deemed inconvenient.

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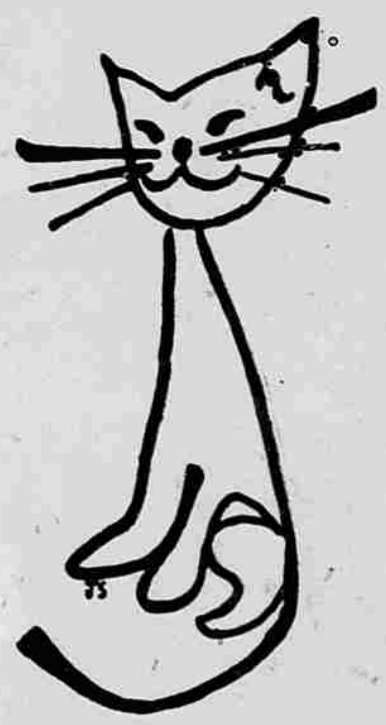
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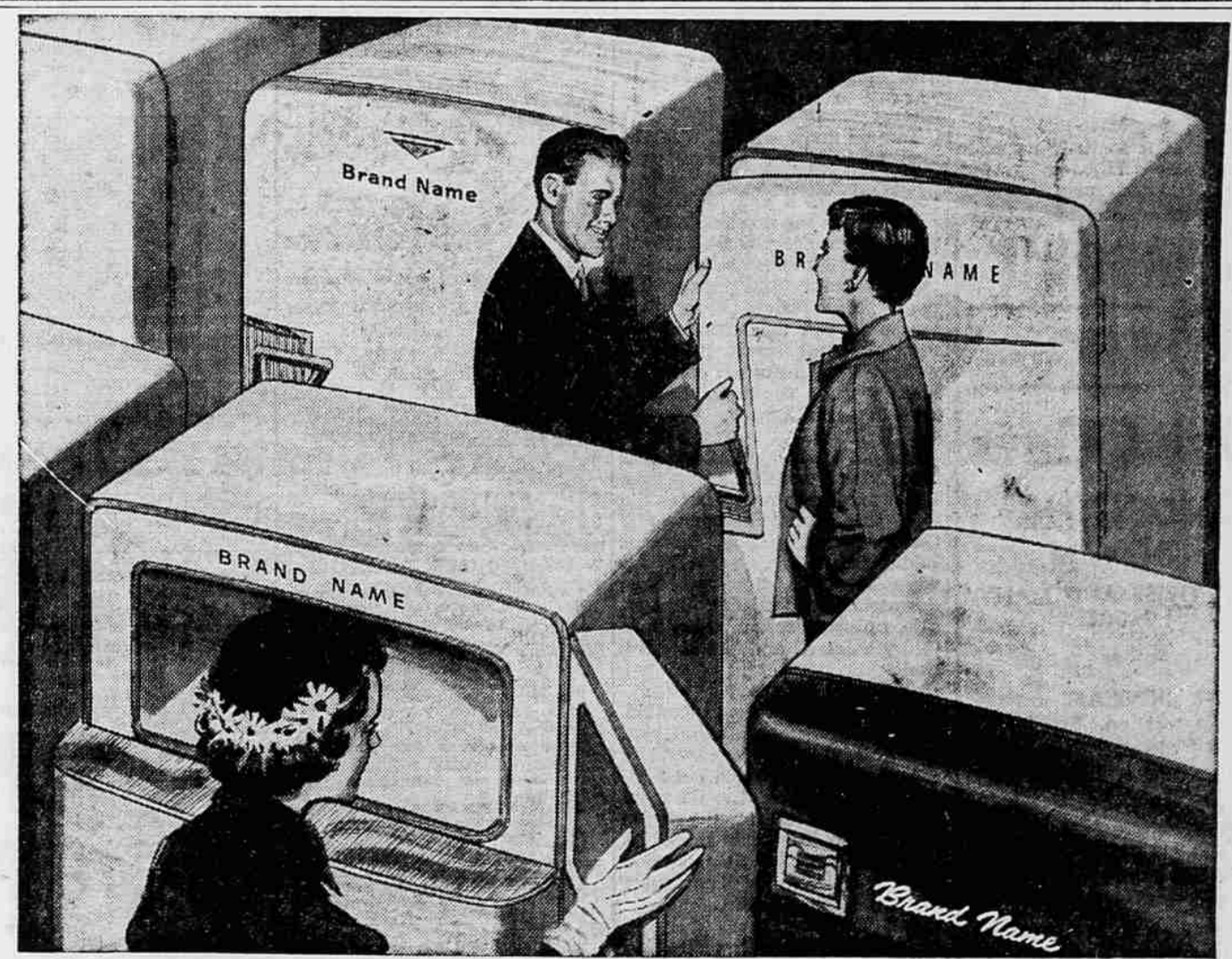


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