

# Smithsonian Alerts All Against Invasion of Foreign Termites

Washington — (U.P.) — The Smithsonian Institution alerted everybody today against possible invasion of the United States by foreign termites.

The termites already operating here are bad enough. According to Dr. Thomas E. Snyder, consultant to the Smithsonian, resident termites do \$100 million damage to U. S. buildings every year.

A tropical species such as *Coptotermes*, if it established a

beachhead, might be even worse. "It might be difficult or impossible to eradicate," Snyder said.

As of now, the United States has only two taxonomists (experts in classification) capable of identifying all kinds of *Isopora* (termites). They are Snyder and Dr. A. E. Emerson of the University of Chicago.

Dr. Emerson has the most com-

plete termite collection in the world. Snyder assembled the next largest. It was given to the Smithsonian last spring. It includes 230,031 specimens, 77,276 not yet identified.

In 1949 Snyder put together a catalogue of known termites, and this fall he published through the Smithsonian a 305-page book which reports in all languages on the so-called "white

ant." The oldest item is a report in Sanskrit, published in 1350 B.C., on "destroyers of wood." Snyder wishes industry would finance training of termite experts. He says it would cost \$6,000 to \$7,000 to train a young man for a Ph.D. degree. Unluckily, "It is very difficult to persuade the Congress or industry of the value" of such expert-

ness.

Snyder, a well-preserved, well-tailored 72, has devoted his life to the study of termites. He is still fascinated by their social and wood-working skills. They can transform the insides of a two-by-six into a highly-organized city.

Tropical termites raise livestock. Their livestock is a special kind of beetle which the

termites feed and milk. These termites are "crazy about" their beetle juice, which affects them as catnip does cats.

Pay Dearly for Jags

But they pay dearly for their beetle-juice jags. The beetle, "a wolf in sheep's clothing," eats their eggs and young. Snyder supposes this is a device by nature to keep the tropics from becoming buried in termites.

There are some 2,000 known species of termites. Snyder has a fossil termite that lived in Southern California 55 million years ago. Termites thrived in Siberia before that.

## Bungled Penicillin Shots Kill Children

Belgrade — (U.P.) — Eleven children recovered from tubercular meningitis died in Skopje Children's hospital from an infection set off by bungled penicillin shots, a special medical commission reported Sunday night.

Twenty-one other children remain in critical condition. Only three of the 35 young meningitis victims escaped infection.

## Family Council

DAVID L. — I love her ... but she has her faults.

MIRIAM B. — He is dominated by his family.

DAVID L. — I am 24 and am in love with a girl two years younger, whom I have known since childhood.

For the past three years we have been talking seriously about marriage, yet I'm beginning to have more and more doubts. My family points out little things about Miriam that I can't help seeing are true. For example, she is quite jealous and just goes to pieces if I talk to another girl. Another thing is that she depends on me to solve all her problems. She never makes a decision without my advice.

There are minor faults and I really love Miriam very much, but I somehow don't see her as my wife and I don't feel that I should take up more of her time if I can't promise marriage.

MIRIAM B. — David is completely dominated by his family, particularly his mother. He has allowed them to spoil a very beautiful relationship.

I know I am jealous and dependent on David, but it's only because I love him so much. Isn't it natural to be that way about someone you care for?

David and I make a perfect couple. We agree about everything. We'll often turn to one another and say exactly the same thing at the same time. Our friends say we would be the only husband and wife in the world who would never quarrel.

If only David can grow up and stop letting his mother dominate him, we could be happy together.

THE COUNCIL — Miriam is fighting a straw man — David's family.

David has set up this straw man himself because it is hard for him as for Miriam to face the truth. He does not want to marry her.

There are undoubtedly strong bonds, even love, in this relationship. David is probably not lying when he says he loves Miriam. A childhood friendship that has blossomed through adolescence and has resulted in the close meeting of adult minds that Miriam describes is a precious thing and not easily cast aside. When, in spite of such strong bonds and such a long friendship, David feels unable to "promise marriage," it is evident that something is lacking in the relationship and that David is trying feebly to detach himself.

The "minor faults" David describes are not the real reason for the breakup. Both David and Miriam probably recognize that her jealousy and dependency merely represent her efforts to hold him.

Far more likely, it is the very perfection of the relationship that worries David. Things are too smooth. There are differences and irritations in a relationship in which two individuals are growing. This relationship has already reached its fulfillment and lacks excitement and possibility for both Miriam and David.

For her own sake, as well as David's Miriam should be brave and let this boy off the hook. (Copyright 1956, General Features Corp.)

## Avalanches Kill Four in Switzerland

Zurich, Switzerland — (U.P.) — Two avalanche accidents killed four persons during the week end in Switzerland's first snowslides of the year, police reported today.

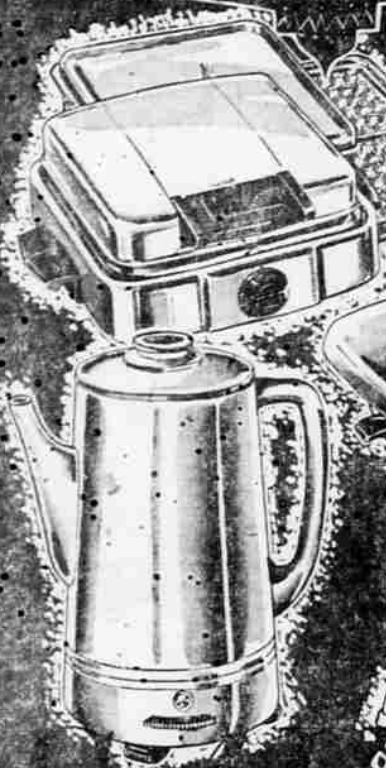
Three workers were killed and one escaped when an avalanche buried them near Grindelwald Saturday. An Alpine fortress guard died and three other persons were injured in a second accident in Central Switzerland Sunday.

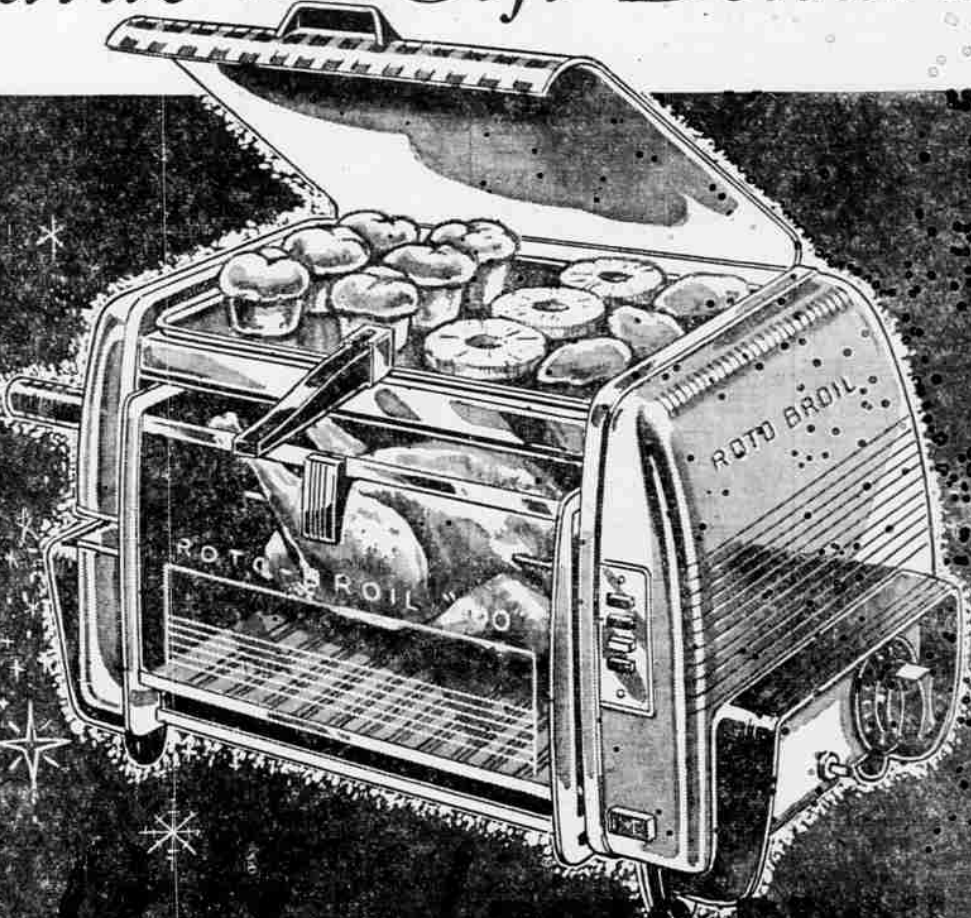
## MAY SAVE MARRIAGE

Los Angeles — (U.P.) — Diablo's a devil but he may save a marriage. When Mr. and Mrs. Arlie Lamb went to divorce court last week, the judge awarded Mrs. Lamb custody of Diablo on week days and Lamb custody on week ends. Now the Lambs say they may reconcile because they miss the pocket-sized chihuahua so much when he's away.



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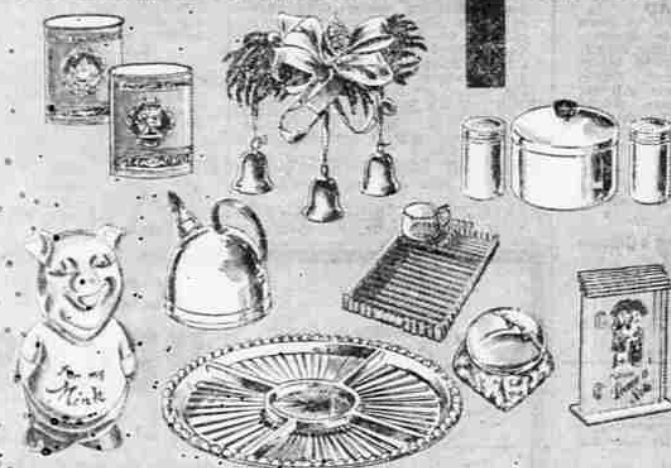
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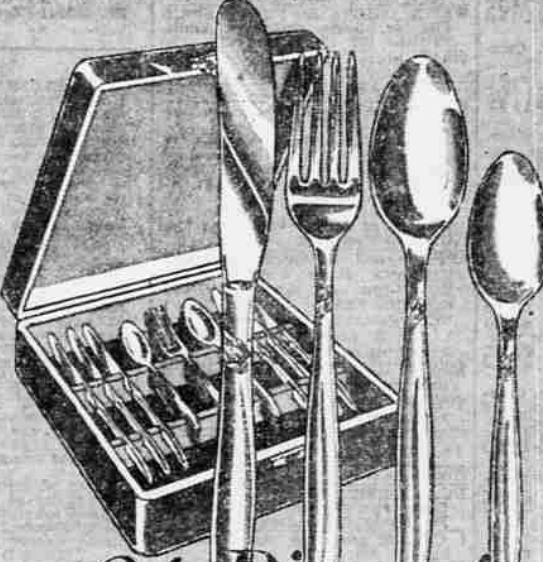
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