



SENSITIVE SCALE — A "fish pole" balance, believed to be the world's most sensitive scale, has been developed by the Washington University Medical School. It can weigh the smallest cells in the body and is so delicate that the total weight of 10 white blood cells would be too much for it. Here, Mrs. Janet Passonneau, a research assistant professor at the school, uses a binocular microscope to operate the device which is mounted inside a hypodermic syringe. Netting is used to reduce air currents. (UPI Telephoto)

Phil Silvers Hurt by Surprise Cancellation Of Sgt. Bilko TV Show

By VERNON SCOTT
UPI Hollywood Writer

Hollywood—(UPI)—Phil (Sgt. Bilko) Silvers admitted today his successful TV show was cancelled eight months ago without his knowledge, causing him acute embarrassment.

"The cancellation of the Bilko show came as a complete surprise to me," he complained. "After five big years on the air it was killed without anybody consulting me. 'It destroyed my pride,' Silvers said. 'I was startled and hurt by the action, but there was nothing I could do about it.'"

Silvers, in tinsel town to guest on CBS-TV's Jack Benny special March 19, said the cancellation was partly his fault.

"I was always beefing about how tired I was from all the work, but I wanted to retire from the show myself, not have it done for me," he said.

"Still, I can't complain too much. I owned half the show and gave it up for a considerable sum of money in my children's names."

In the past eight months the bald comedian has been watching another TV series which he hopes will escape the "second series curse" suffered by other stars. He wants to avoid the plight

of many video standouts who follow their first successful show with a bomb.

Among those who attempted to come up with a second hit, but were off-target a mile, were Jack Webb, Eve Arden, Bob Sweeney, Ann Sothern, George Burns and Joan Caulfield.

"I think I know pretty much about situation comedies and the economics behind them now," he said. "Therefore I believe I won't fail the second time around. 'I'll be thinking of the 30th segment of the new series when we start out, not just the first one. And I will be in financial control of the program from the beginning.'"

Silvers' secret weapon is his determination to play an entirely different character from the larcenous Sgt. Bilko.

"Too many stars play the same type of role in a follow-up series," he explained. "In fairness to viewers I would do something radically different from Bilko—a completely different approach. I won't play another con man, that's for sure."

"But right now I'm deflated from the Bilko show. I'll have to take some time to build up enthusiasm. So before I tackle my second series I'd like to do a Broadway show—like Jackie Gleason's doing."

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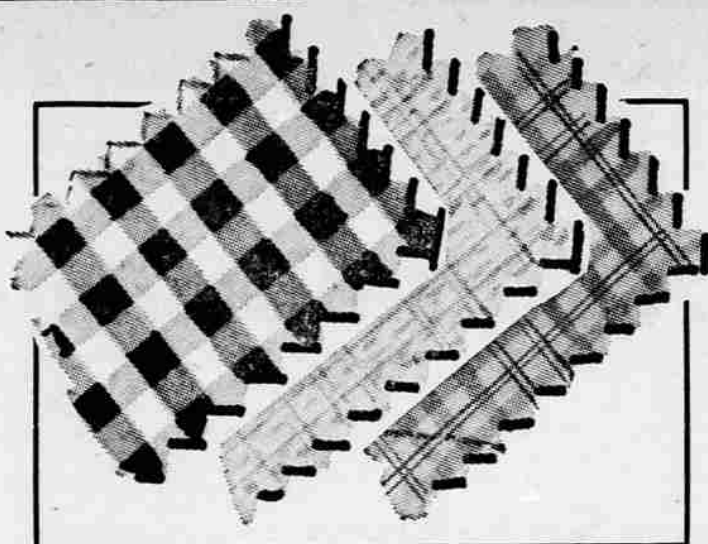
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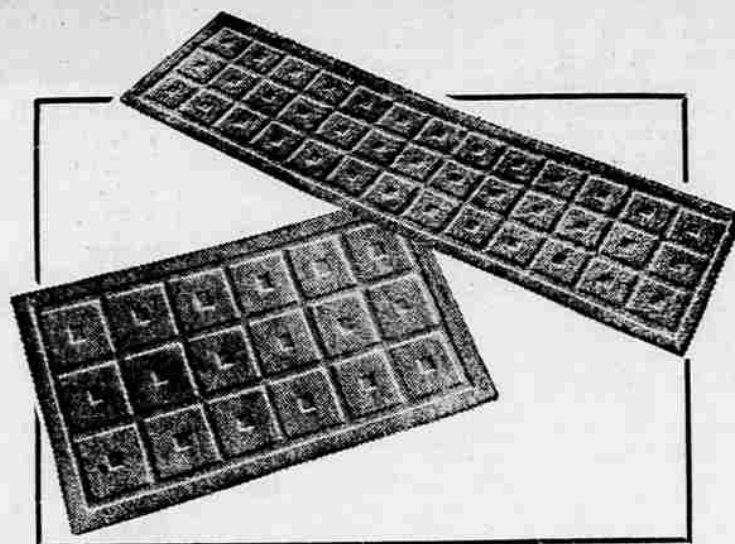
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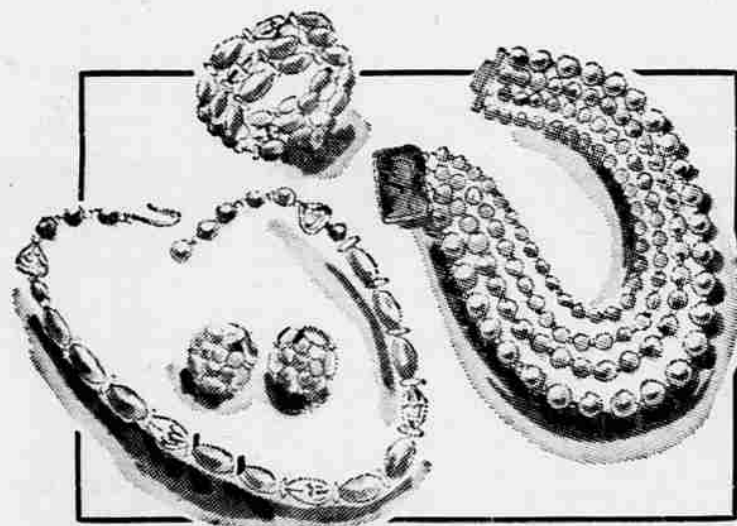
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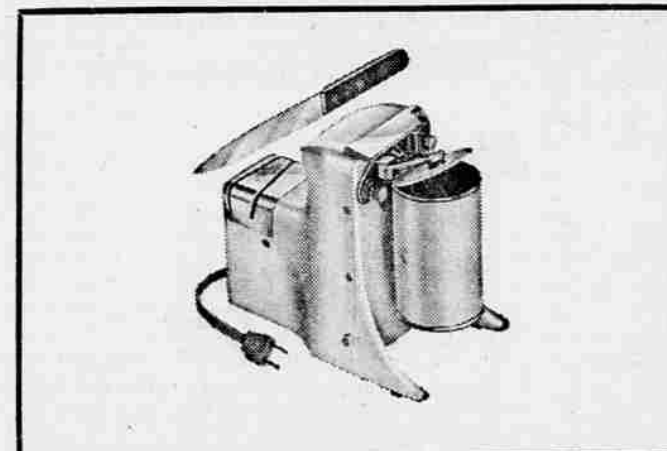


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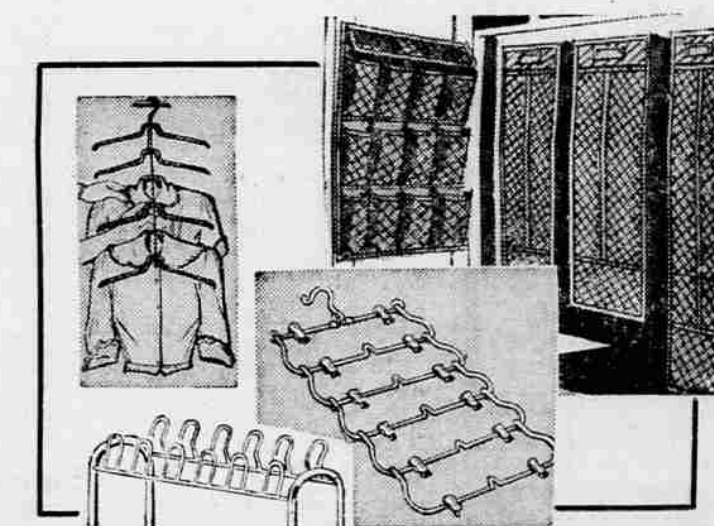
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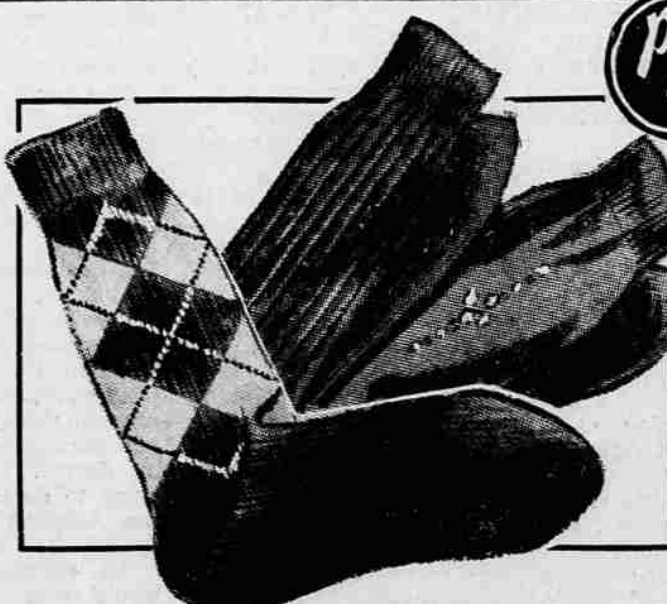
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