



Small Worlds Around Us
By Lynn M. Watkins

A Look at Nature Reveals Father's Role is Not Secure

There is no substitute for motherhood. Not even the most vocal pessimist can question the necessity of the female in the scheme of things. Her place is secure. But the status of the male animal is not too bright. The more science and Nature mess around with this mystery of life, the more convinced we become of the dispensableness of the male animal.

In view of what little is known, it appears that the male may be something the world can get along without. Already the poor little guy is playing second-fiddle to a test-tube, and in some forms of life the male of the species isn't playing on the team at all.

Nature seems to have been toying with this "male-elimination" business for some time. There are many forms of living life that are flourishing where the male plays such a small part in the furtherance of the species that he appears unneeded.

Only Females

A species of wasp has been observed that contains only females. Under laboratory conditions many generations of wasps have been raised without the benefit of a papa-wasp. And no male wasp of this kind has ever been found, even in a wild state.

The part the male scorpion plays in the race of scorpions can hardly justify the room he occupies or the food he eats. The honey-bee spends five seconds or less being a husband, then becomes a corpse.

All the oysters that are hatched are females. Later some change over and become males, but this seems only a matter of adjustment, and probably will be corrected in favor of mama-oyster. It is already apparent the two oyster-sexes are not essentially necessary.

Many other creatures, including fish, have the ability of storing male sex germs in their systems which can be used at some future time. A female guppy can raise many families and live alone all the time.

Among many forms of life the male is eaten, murdered or cast aside. He may not appear on the scene at all, yet the species continues. What the serious scientific mind is pondering, is that these known examples of maleless life may be a hint as to what Nature is planning in the future development of many animal species. With only a handful of males the saving in food and space would be considerable. With each new discovery in some stratas of life, the male seems to be placed in a seat farther back in the hall. His future doesn't look so hot.

No Immediate Alarm

Of course the present male half of this living world has no immediate cause for alarm. It is going to take a long time and some convincing before the male retires, but with every stride in biological science, his position on the lower rung of the ladder becomes a little more precarious.

In all male animals, ego and a deep-seated domineering conceit have been an important part of his makeup.

"It's a man's world," he says. The poor little guy does not know that already the "other half" is tolerant rather than dependent. He is allowed to think it's "his world" by the female half that knows darn well how really insignificant and unimportant he actually is. There may be an unhappy day a-dawning.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1960)

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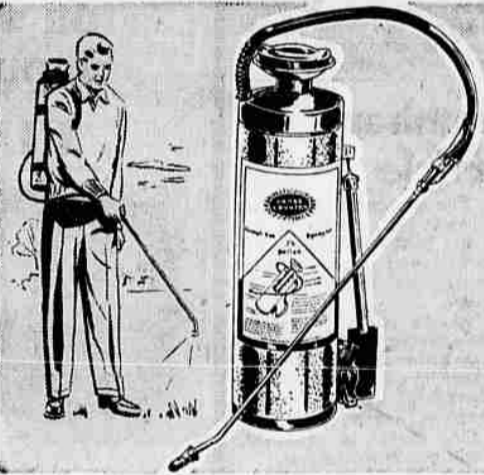
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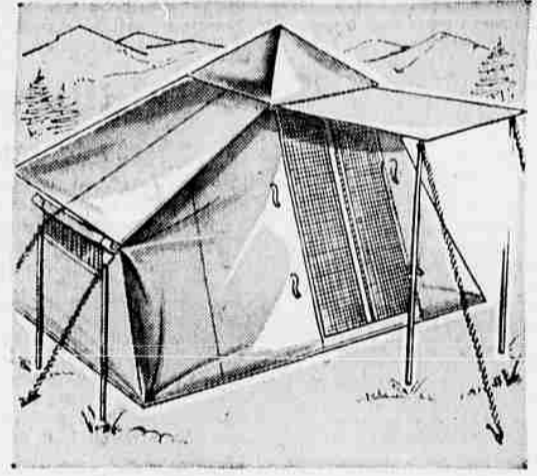
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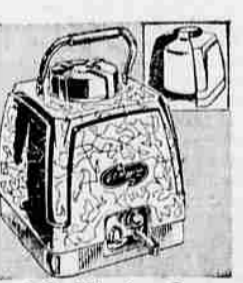


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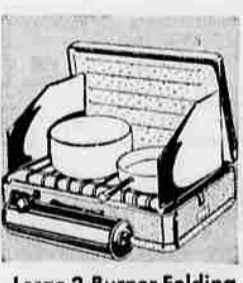
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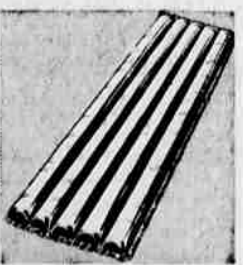
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Falling Wall Kills Creswell Workman

Eugene — (UPI) — A Creswell construction worker was killed instantly here about 12:30 Tuesday when a 29-ton cement wall fell under pressure of a sudden wind and rain storm.

The victim was identified by the Lane County Coroner's office as Iver Stanley Kelsch, 31.

Authorities said the wall, 31 feet high, 18 feet wide, and 8 inches thick, was supported by two steel braces and two wooden braces.

Kelsch and another worker were trying to escape another falling wall made of wood and plastic and Kelsch ran under the concrete wall just as it collapsed. The other man, unidentified, stopped just inches short of death.

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