



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins
The Greatest Skin Diver is the Water Spider. Carrying an air-bubble is a stunt that requires considerable dexterity. Those things are extremely fragile. Add to this difficulty, the ability of storing these same air-bubbles for future use—as much as a full month's supply at a time and all underwater.

This seemingly impossible performance is actually a way of life with a tiny creature commonly called the water or diving spider, that prefers to live under water. Being an air-breathing creature this spider must have oxygen, so she must surmount the difficulty by carrying air-bubbles and anchoring them at the pond bottom for future use. Although rather common, the diving spider is seldom seen by most people; the spider is small and attracts little attention.

Prepares Carefully
She has to prepare carefully for her underwater life. There are usually plenty of water insects, as well as insect larvae in this environment on which she can feed, but the one big problem is air. This she must have and it's much too tiring as well as dangerous for her to come to the surface constantly for a breath of air, so she stores a supply under water. On the surface there are many air bubbles, tiny globules barely larger than the head of a pin. She catches the bubble delicately with her two rear legs, then with the other legs waving furiously she swims for the bottom, the air-bubble like a tiny pearl securely held by her feet.

Arriving at the pond bottom, at the place previously selected for her lair, she carefully anchors the bubble, usually by pushing it under the edge of a plant stem or leaf. Sure she has it securely anchored she again goes to the surface for another.

Adequate Supply
Usually she persists in her labors until she has a good supply cached below. Sometimes enough to last a month. The little bubbles, usually all of nearly equal size, look like a small spoonful of tapioca or a tiny collection of transparent pearls.

With the cache safely stored the diving spider begins her regular underwater life. She preys on water insects. Whenever she needs to replenish her body air she grasps an air-bubble in her front legs, punctures it with her beak and breathes in the air. In her aquatic environment, besides maintaining the supply of air-bubbles, are many enemies.

Dangers of a hundred kinds surround her day and night. She remains reasonably safe however, as long as her air lasts, for she does not have to expose herself on dangerous trips up and down after life-giving air. Reasonably safe because she has accomplished the impossible task of carrying air-bubbles under water and storing them for future use. As a skin diver, she is the one and only expert.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1960)

Army Offering More Enlistment Options

The Army is now offering a greater number of enlistment "options" to non-prior and prior service personnel than ever before, according to Sgt. Warren M. Long, local recruiting station commander.

Among the options currently available are enlistments for direct assignment with surface to air guided missile units of the Air Defense command located in metropolitan areas. Choice of travel is also optional under the Army's double-barreled program.

Presently, enlistment vacancies exist in the fields of electronics, automotive and aircraft maintenance, engineering, clerical, medical, military police and airborne.

The Army's "graduate specialist" program also offers high school graduates the opportunity of selecting the school of their choice from among 107 vocational training courses now available.

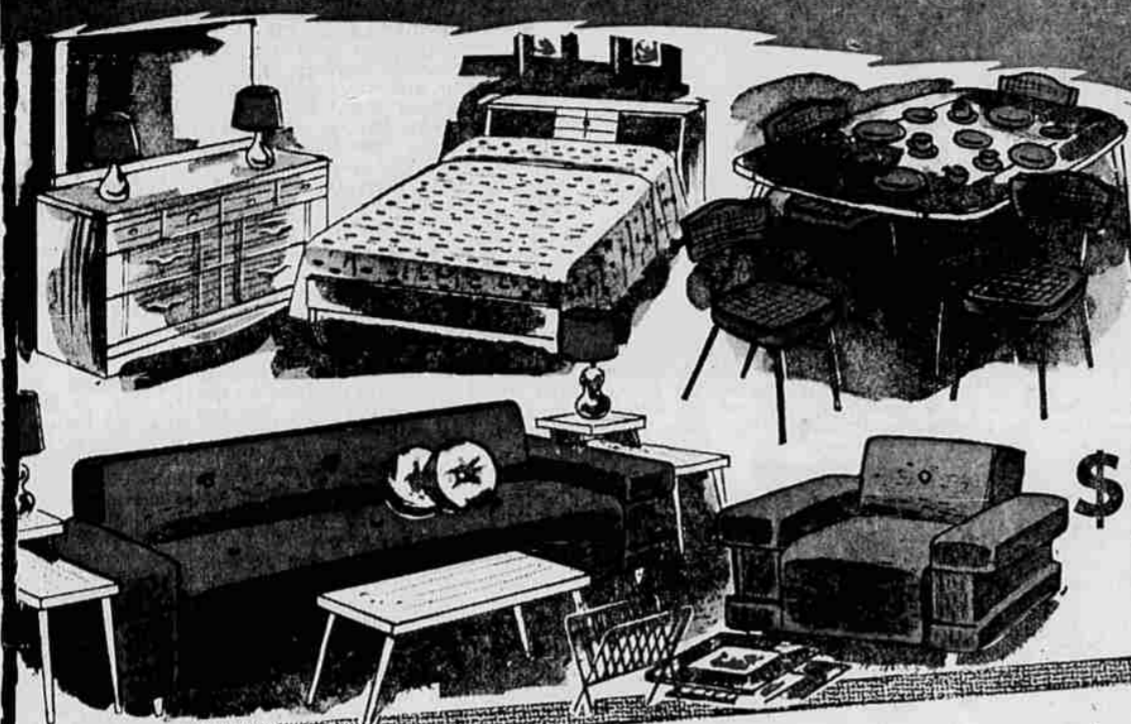
TABLE SALT

Only about 3 per cent of the total salt produced in the U.S. reaches consumers across the dinner table.

Savings and loan associations registered a new high in net savings in January. Net savings amounted to \$520 million, 13 per cent more than the high set in January, 1955.

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