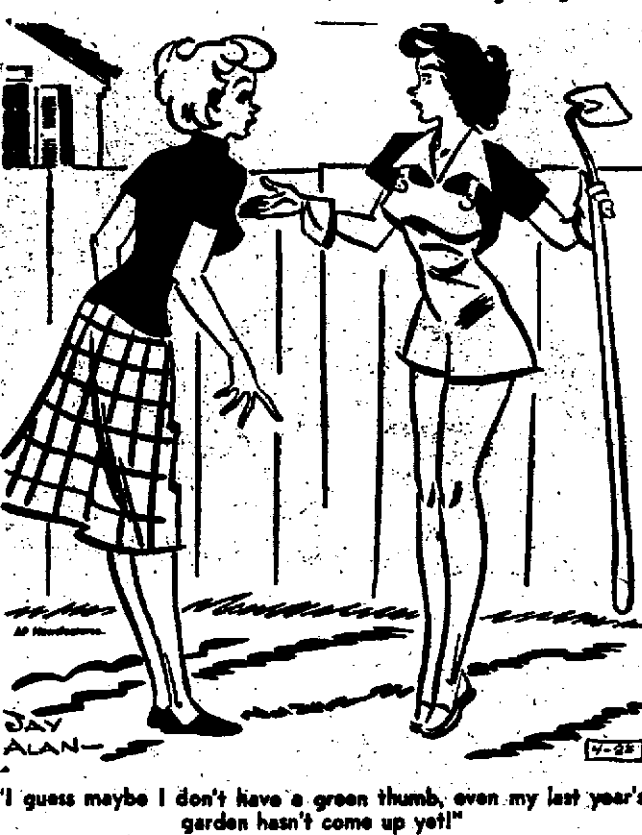




Third Finger Left Is Old Superstition

By HASKIN
A reader can get the answer to any question of fact by writing the Long Beach Press-Telegram, 1000 Broadway, Room 210, Long Beach, Calif. 90801. Please enclose three (3) cents for return postage.
Q. WHY IS the wedding ring worn on the third finger of the left hand? M. W. D.
A. This is due to an ancient superstition that from this finger a nerve went directly to the heart. Greek and Roman physicians called it the medical or healing finger and used it to stir their mixtures, believing that they would be warned of the presence of anything harmful within by a palpitation of the heart.
Q. How did the stories of mermaids originate? A. D. G.
A. It is believed that early Asiatic explorers noting the tenderness and care which the manatee mother nurses its offspring brought back the original tales of mermaids. Manatee is another name for the sea cow.
Q. Can oil be applied to shoes to make them last longer? T. E. A.
The rational use of suitable oils or greases will make shoes wear much longer than they otherwise would. Shoes worn on farms, in forests, and in mines are helped by oil or grease whenever the leather begins to harden or dry or fails to turn water well. Among the best materials for greasing shoes are neat's foot, cod and castor oils, tallow and wool grease, or mixtures of them.
Q. How many transcontinental railroads are there in South America? J. D.
A. The Association of American Railroads says that there are three transcontinental routes in operation today in South America. One is between Buenos Aires and Valparaiso; another between Buenos Aires and Antofagasta; a third is between the latter two cities, but runs north into Bolivia, then south to Antofagasta. The last mentioned route is negotiated without a change of cars.



Marine Engineer Has Idea and Turns It Into Money

By HAL BOYLE
NEW YORK (AP) If you ever had an idea and tried to turn it into money, the story of Dick James may interest you.
He taught a piece of coiled wire to walk downstairs. Now it makes him an excellent living. James, a 31-year-old former marine engineer, is the inventor of "Slinky," a revolutionary new mechanical toy.
Slinky is nothing but a 78-foot piece of high carbon clockspring steel wire arranged in 92 coils. He looks like an old-fashioned bedspring pressed flat—so the coils touch.
But Slinky can do things. A child can take him in his hands and play the coils back and forth like a silent accordion. Put Slinky on the top of a staircase and flip his top coil over; and Slinky will coil and uncoil his way down the stairs like a rhythmic snake.
"He changed my whole life," said James, who has sold 2,500,000 Slinkys and expects to market another 1,000,000 this year.
Simple as the gadget is, it took James several years of hard work to make it a success.
Back in 1943 he was working in a Philadelphia shipyard. He began fooling with some round elastic wire used to suspend meters that registered the horsepower output of ship machinery.
"The coils of round wire wouldn't stand up," he said. "So just for fun I had the company make me up a couple of dozen samples of flat wire."
"It wasn't until the next year that I learned I could make the coils walk downstairs. My son Tom and the other kids in the neighborhood were fascinated."
"I gave one coil to a boy in bed with the mumps. His parents said he had had so much fun with it I should sell the coils as toys. And my wife, Betty, who'd thought I was foolish to spend two years tinkering with wire springs, agreed."
But James found then how much resistance there is in the world against a new idea.
"The toy people wanted no part of Slinky," he laughed. "Finally one department store agreed to let me use one end of a counter for an evening if I'd demonstrate the toy myself."
"I brought along 400 coils and sold them in an hour and a half. That convinced them. They gave me an immediate order for 5000."
James had to borrow money to buy the coils from a factory that made them to his specifications. A month later he quit his \$5000-a-year marine engineering job.
"It was a hard gamble," he said. "My family thought I was crazy to give up an engineering career over a toy."
Slinky mushroomed so fast that other companies began making the coils, figuring a patent application by James would "But I got the patent," he

Sen. Soaper Says: POOR PA

By H. V. WADE
AGAIN AND AGAIN, Our Harp lays down the law; but it just lies there. You could, in fact, get more bounce out of the old-time dead baseball.
You'd suppose the nuclear fission boys would make some sort of a constructive gesture. At the very least they could vitamin-enrich the atom bomb.
A check written on an egg by a member of British Parliament is held to be negotiable, just so it is cashed quickly and not run through the protectograph.
Preston Tucker, well-known stock promoter, is picked up speeding in his new motorcar. The official S. E. C. will look into this, perhaps, to see if it was downhill.
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RADIO PROGRAMS — TODAY AND TOMORROW

Table with columns for radio stations (KLAC, KFI, KMPX, KECA, KHJ, KFVB, KNX, KFOX, KFAC, KESL) and their respective programs for today and tomorrow.

TELEVISION SCHEDULE

Table with columns for television channels (KTLA, KTTV, KTLA-TV, KTLA-TV, KTLA-TV) and their respective programs for today and tomorrow.

FREQUENCY MODULATION

Table listing radio frequencies and their corresponding stations and programs.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

REJECTION of American aid would not only drive China to stagnation but also into death itself.
—Sun Fo, ex-premier of China.
REAL faith is impossible without observable proofs, and the function of proof is to strengthen faiths.
—Dr. J. A. Campbell, professor of chemistry, Oberlin College.
IT'S time for our old "fuds" to begin to go, and let the next generation come into its own.
—President Truman.
MOST people never grow up. The thing we've got to do in our institutions is try to build up more maturity. Mature people are happier. At least they can rationalize the world in such a way that they are not going to beat their heads against a wall.
—Novelist John P. Marquand.

GO ON CLENCHING

WE ALL KNOW in a rough general way that specialization of interest has been carried to great lengths in the modern world. How far, we realize, only when somebody speaks up in behalf of his particular interest.
There was the chiroprapist who said the other day that it was a good thing for women to wear slacks, however dreadful the sight may be. His reason was the reason of the devoted chiroprapist—a woman in slacks, he said, usually wears "sensible" low-heeled shoes, and that is wonderfully good for the feet.—Baltimore Evening Sun.
grinned, "and that ironed out everything."
Now James is manufacturing the coils himself and is arranging to have them made and sold in four foreign countries.
"I don't think the toy will ever die out," he said. "There are about 5,000,000 new kids coming along every year."
James culled over several hundred thousand names before his wife suggested calling the bouncing coil "Slinky."
"I was going to name it 'Snaky,'" he recalled. "That would have been an awful mistake."
James feels luck has played a large part in his good fortune. "Hundreds of engineers have worked with elastic wire, and never thought of turning it into a toy," he said. "Neither did I. If I had set out deliberately to develop a toy that would walk downstairs, I might have spent a lifetime on it."

Let's Explore Your Mind

Advertisement for 'Let's Explore Your Mind' by Albert Edward Wiggam, D. Sc. Includes a cartoon of a woman and a man, and a poll question: 'DO YOU HOPE TO PLAY A PART IN THE RISKY CHALLENGE OF COMMUNISM?' with 'YES' and 'NO' options.

Answer to Question No. 1
No. Those statisticians, Drs. Dublin and Lotka of Metropolitan Life, who find out so many fascinating things about births, deaths, diseases, marriage, etc., assure us a farmer's wife has only six-sevenths the many chances of widowhood (in any particular year) as if she had married into any of the professional groups "of city slickers." I hope this won't start a back-to-the-farm movement! A woman is slightly more likely to become a widow if she marries a clerk, business man or politician than if she marries a doctor, lawyer, preacher or teacher.
Answer to Question No. 2
They certainly do, according to what Gerald F. Winfield calls "the nutrient cycle" in his fascinating new book on China. He says the chief animal of the Chinese, the pig, lives chiefly off the family latrine, the offal from the pig is scattered on the soil; the family eat the vegetables from the soil. Thus some 400,000,000 rural Chinese become infested with worms, liver flukes, etc. And as a result many live hopeless lives of disease and poverty. That makes a fruitful soil for communism. Not surprising that worms and communism should be so closely associated.
Answer to Question No. 3
Yes, many do. This false psychological attitude last year and \$450,000,000 loss of property, and \$450,000,000 loss of property according to Bernard Geis. The potassium chlorate, fused with

AUNT HET

Advertisement for 'Aunt Het' featuring a cartoon of a woman on a telephone. Text: 'It pays to be humble. I never made a fool of myself in my life, except when I was tryin' to show off.'

Large advertisement for TIC-TOC FOOD STORES. Features various food products and prices: PEACHES No. 2 1/2 Can 25¢, BLACK SWAN CATSUP 14-oz. BOTTLE 2 for 23¢, DEL MONTE Tomato Juice 46 oz. 19¢, NEWMARK IRISH Potatoes No. 1 3 for 25¢, GALLAGHER'S GALLEY Best Sandwiches in Town West Ocean at Pico, G. I. KHAKI PANTS OR SHIRTS \$1.95, DEL MONTE Boysenberries No. 303 Glass 23¢, DOLE Pineapple Juice 46 oz. 37¢, TIC-TOC FOOD STORES. Locations: Bawdy Food Market, Zietan's Market, Ramey's Market, Halbert's, Los Cerritos Market, and Murphy War Surplus Stores.