

SHOOTING BLOW GUN DIFFICULT, SCIENTIST SAYS

Trick Is to Puff Until Dart Is Entirely Out of Weapon.

BY JOHN JOHNSON

"The trick about using a blow gun," says Dr. Howard E. Enders, Dean of the School of Science at Purdue University, "is to keep on blowing until the dart is completely out of the gun. This is no small trick when you are puffing into a gun 11 feet long such as some of the South American natives use."

Speaking yesterday afternoon before the Shortridge High School Chemistry Club, Dr. Enders described his experiences in British Guinea, where he worked in the laboratory established by William Beebe.

"The darts are made of the stems of palm leaves," Dr. Enders said, "and although the poets speak of falling leaves, there is not much poetry in the fall of one of these leaves, especially if it falls on you, because some of them are 45 feet long."

Darts About 14 Inches Long

The darts are smoothed and shaped with the aid of fishes' teeth until they are about the size of a match stick and about 14 inches long, Dr. Enders explained. The butt then is wrapped in cotton and the tip is sharpened and, for most purposes, dipped in poison.

"This poison is obtained from the warts on hoptoads and the root of the manioc, or cassava plant," the scientist explained. "The Indians roast the toads until the venom comes out of the warts. The roots are squeezed and their juice is boiled. Then the two are mixed. The toad venom contains two toxic agents, one of which acts like adrenalin and the other like digitalis. On entering the blood stream of a warm-blooded animal, the poison has the same effect as if an automobile, driven at full speed, were suddenly checked by slamming on the brakes."

"The animal hit by a poisoned dart dies within 10 minutes," Dr. Enders said, "and the odd thing about it is that the poison has no effect on the food value of the flesh of the beast."

Shows Effectiveness

Dr. Enders demonstrated the effectiveness of the gun by shooting darts across the room, a distance of about 30 feet, into a target. He told of hitting a human target, a friend who gave him permission to shoot at him (with an unpoisoned dart, however) at a distance of 75 feet.

"I don't know which of us was the more surprised," Dr. Enders said, "but he was surprised more disagreeably, for the dart hit him in the hip pocket and penetrated the skin."

"Speaking of the penetrating power of the darts, Dr. Enders said that he had shot one into an oak board with such force that two men could not pull it out."

"The blow gun supplements the bow and arrow," he said, "and its obvious advantage is its silence at close range. If you miss the first time, you can take several more shots without scaring your prey away."

MONTGOMERY WELFARE BOARD TO MEET TODAY

Selection of Director to Be Deferred Until Next Parley.

Times Special CRAWFORDSVILLE, Ind., April 3.—Montgomery County's Welfare Board was to be formally organized at a meeting of newly appointed members here today.

Those named to the board by Circuit Judge Edgar A. Rice are John A. Clements, Verne E. Livengood, Thomas W. Rice, Mrs. E. A. Arthur and Mrs. Anna T. Karle.

Board members stated that selection of a welfare director will be deferred until a second meeting.

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Play Methods Taught

By United Press TOLEDO, April 3.—The "right and wrong ways to play in the snow" were explained by children in a program presented by Miss Mary Griffith's kindergarten.

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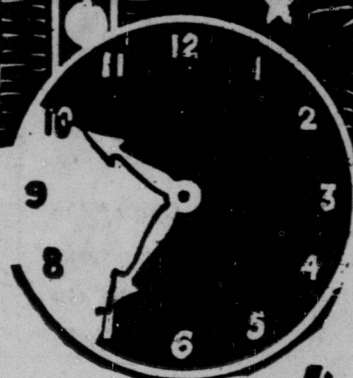
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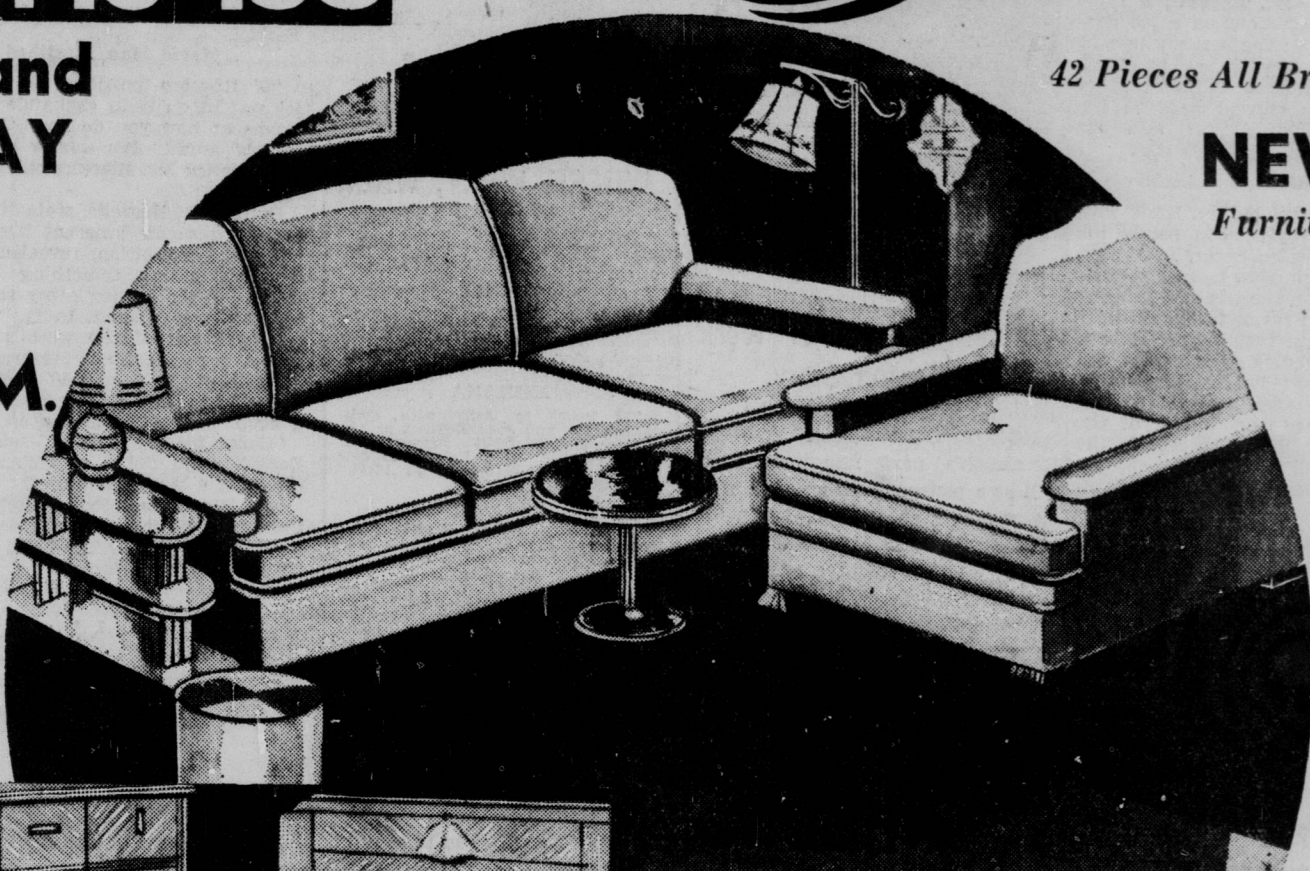
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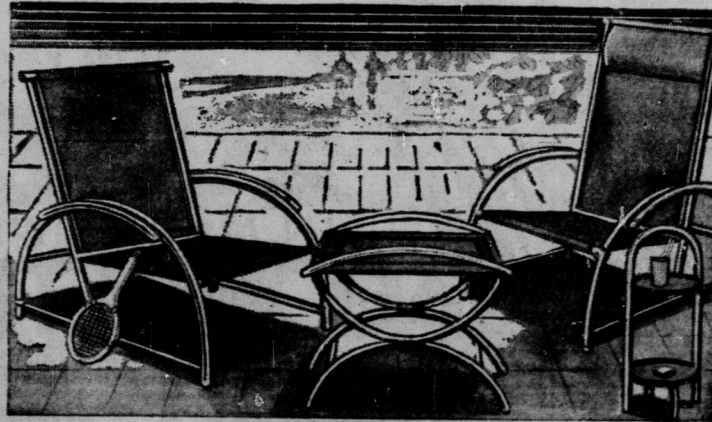
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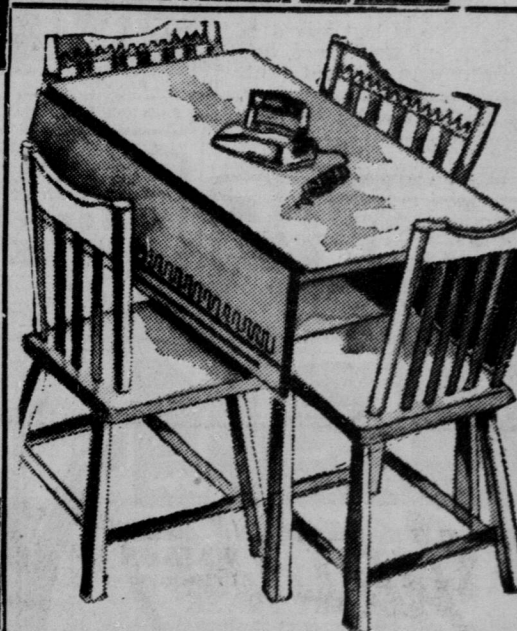
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