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7-16  
7-2  
7-3  
Presented by  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE and  
N.B.C. NETWORK Coast to Coast

# "Consumer Time"

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## SATURDAYS

11:15 A.M. EST

10:15 A.M. CST

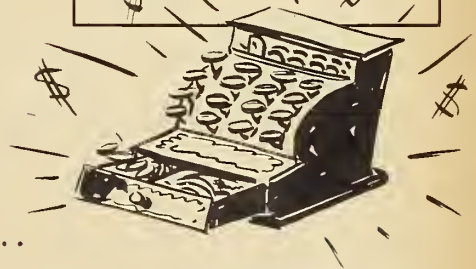
9:15 A.M. MST

8:15 A.M. PST

### DETECTIVES AT WORK

July 12, 1947

1. JOHN: Listen for the story of "Detectives who Work with Insects"...today on....
2. SOUND: CASH REGISTER RINGS...MONEY IN TILL
3. JOHN: CONSUMER TIME!
4. SOUND: CASH REGISTER...CLOSE DRAWER
5. ANNCR: During the next fifteen minutes, the National Broadcasting independent Company and its affiliated/stations make their facilities available for the presentation of CONSUMER TIME by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.
6. FREYMAN: (ON FILTER) It looks like an ant...but it has wings It must be a termite! Oh dear!
7. MAN: (FILTER) The wife thinks we've got termites. Better check on that before they eat us out of house and home.
8. JOHN: (FILTER) Could that bug I saw really be a termite?
9. FREYMAN: (FILTER) Is it an ant?
10. MAN: (FILTER) Naw...must be a termite.
11. JOHN: (FILTER) Looks like an ant.
12. FREYMAN: (FILTER) Termite?
13. MAN: (FILTER) Oh an'





14. ANNCR: Identifying insects is a problem that bothers many people in all parts of our country. It's this typical problem that's worrying your inquiring consumers, Mrs. Freyman and Johnny, right now. We find them in Mrs. Freyman's kitchen...working very hard.
15. FREYMAN: Quick...Johnny...here he comes. He's flying right toward you. See if you can get him this time.
16. JOHN: Okay ..easy now...I'll try to sneak up on him.
17. SOUND: CLAPS HIS HANDS TOGETHER
18. JOHN: Missed the pesky little fellow.
19. FREYMAN: Well...try again. And don't clap your hands so violently. You don't want to damage him.
20. JOHN: Okay ..I'll try and bring him back alive. (LOWERS VOICE) Say... he's lighted on the table...I think...I've....got him!
21. FREYMAN: Good. Quick. Put him in this jar...and then we can take a look at him.
22. JOHN: In he goes...and on goes the cover. Now, Mrs. Freyman...why has this poor little winged creature been causing you so much anguish?
23. FREYMAN: How would you like it if you had termites flying around your house?
24. JOHN: Termites! I thought they lived in wood...and did all their damage where you couldn't see them.
25. FREYMAN: So did I. But I once heard that termites sometimes do have wings. So when I saw a couple of strange little bugs flying around the kitchen from time to time...I got worried.
26. JOHN: And decided you'd better go big game hunting and capture one. Well, there he is...growling in that jar. Is he a termite?
27. FREYMAN: That's the trouble! I don't know.
28. JOHN: You don't know.
29. FREYMAN: I've never looked a termite in the face before...so I don't know what this is But oh Johnny! What if he is a termite?



30. JOHN: If he is...you've got worries. Say...I know a guy who can help us out.
31. FREYMAN: Who?
32. JOHN: A detective.
33. FREYMAN: Does a detective know about bugs and stuff?
34. JOHN: This one does. He's an entomologist with the U. S. Department of Agriculture.
35. FREYMAN: I know an entomologist deals with bugs. That makes sense. But what's all this about a detective?
36. JOHN: You see, Mrs. Freyman. .it's very important to recognize an insect so you can know the proper way to get rid of him.
37. FREYMAN: Like me and my termite.. which I hope he isn't.
38. JOHN: Exactly. If he is a termite. .then you've got to take drastic steps to get rid of him and any of his relatives...before they eat away the wood in your house.
39. FREYMAN: But if he isn't a termite...just another old bug who doesn't do any harm. .then why worry.
40. JOHN: That's the idea. There are some seven hundred thousand different kinds of insects we know about...and lots more we don't know. Some of those are harmful in our houses...in our gardens.. and on our big farms that feed us. So it's important to know what insect you're dealing with before you begin the fight.
41. FREYMAN: Well, Johnny ..do you really think your detective friend can tell me whether this little bug is a termite or not?
42. JOHN: I'm sure he can. Why not see him right now. Let's gather up our little friend in his glass prison..and go. (FADE) We'll soon find out what this little bug is.





43. ENTOMOLOGIST: (FADE IN) I'll certainly be glad to show you and Mrs. Freyman around, Johnny. How about if we start with this bunch of bugs that came in the mail today?
44. JOHN: That's a swell idea. Then we can see the whole process.
45. SOUND: APPROPRIATE EFFECTS.
46. ENTOMOLOGIST: Well, here's today's mail. Let's look through it and see what we've got. Seems as if every part of the country is represented today...north, west. south and east...all people who want us to identify some little bug or other. Here's one ..from a cranberry farmer in New Jersey. Let's see what he's sent us. Mmmmm hmmm...looks like a lace bug.
47. JOHN: Well...that didn't take much detective work.
48. ENTOMOLOGIST: The problem isn't settled yet. I've got to find out just which type of lace bug this is. So we'll just stick him under the microscope. .like this ..and see if we can determine his family.. genus...and species.
49. JOHN: Boy...when you've got all that...you've really got the goods on the little fellow.
50. FREYMAN: I wonder why they call him a lace bug? Does he chew leaves in a lacy pattern?
51. ENTOMOLOGIST: Suppose you take a look through the microscope...and maybe you'll have the answer.
52. FREYMAN: All right...let's see. Oh! Of course. .his wings have a beautiful lacy pattern ..so delicate.
53. JOHN: Let me look. Say...this lace bug has hidden beauty. You'd never know it to look at him...without a microscope, I mean.
54. ENTOMOLOGIST: This microscope magnifies the bug twenty times its natural size.. so we can get a good look at it. But it's not the beauty we're looking for.



55. JOHN: I'll say.
56. FREYMAN: How do you go about finding out just what kind of lace bug he is?
57. ENTOMOLOGIST: By looking at the structure of his body. Here.. look through the microscope again. Now you're looking at the bug's head... see it clearly?
58. FREYMAN: Yes....
59. ENTOMOLOGIST: See that hump sticking out over the head?
60. FREYMAN: Yes...I see it.
61. ENTOMOLOGIST: That's called a hood...and by comparing the hood on this bug with the hood on other kinds of lace bugs, we can see the difference between them.
62. JOHN: Do you have to keep putting different bugs under the microscope until you can match two up?
63. FREYMAN: That would take an awfully long time, I should think.



64. ENTOMOLOGIST: Yes it would take too much time. So what we do is look up identification keys.. which describe the differences in the different kinds and charts that have drawings of the different parts of the insect's body...since any part of the bug may be a clue to his identity. If I can't identify my lace bug from the charts...I go over to this cabinet...(OFF MIKE)...and take out a drawer full of the lace bug's relatives.
65. SOUND: DRAWER OPENING...PLACED ON TABLE.
66. FREYMAN: My goodness...are those all lace bugs in that drawer?
67. JOHN: They all look the same to me.
68. ENTOMOLOGIST: But under the microscope ..each kind has at least one part of his body that's different. Let's try comparing this one... with our visiting insect friend from New Jersey. I think ...this is the one. Yes....they're twins.
69. JOHN: I still think you did it pretty quickly. You swooped down on that whole tray of bugs...and came up with the right one.
70. ENTOMOLOGIST: Don't forget I look at these things under the microscope all the time.
71. FREYMAN: So the clues are pretty obvious to you.
72. ENTOMOLOGIST: That's right. Now I can send the exact name of this lace bug to the cranberry farmer in New Jersey who sent it in.... along with any information that's on file about the habits of this bug and how to control him.
73. SOUND: GLASS JAR BREAKING.



74. FREYMAN: Oh...Johnny...I accidentally knocked my termite onto the floor...  
and he broke....I mean the jar broke.
75. JOHN: Quick...he's flying around. Haven't you got a butterfly net or  
something, Doc?
76. ENTOMOLOGIST: 'Fraid not...we never get any live insects around here. But  
I'll try and help you catch him anyway.
77. FREYMAN: Johnny...he's on your sleeve. Get him.
78. ENTOMOLOGIST: Gently now, boy. easy does it.
79. JOHN: I've got him. I think he's getting used to me now. For one  
termite ..he causes more trouble.
80. ENTOMOLOGIST: A termite! Do you always carry your pet termites around  
with you, Mrs. Freyman?
81. FREYMAN: (LAUGHING) Heavens no!
82. JOHN: She leaves them home most of the time.
83. FREYMAN: Johnny! I do not. I mean...they're not pets. We brought this  
one up to you to find out if he really is a termite...or what?
84. ENTOMOLOGIST: Well...let's dip him in a little alcohol first ..there Now  
he won't be leading you a merry chase. Now...we'll take a good  
look.
85. JOHN: Do you have to stick him under the microscope, Doc?
86. ENTOMOLOGIST: No...I don't think so. He's pretty familiar to me.
87. FREYMAN: Well.. tell me the truth. Is it a termite?
88. ENTOMOLOGIST: No, Mrs Freyman.. It's an ant.
89. FREYMAN: A what?
90. JOHN: An ant with wings?
91. ENTOMOLOGIST: That's right. Ants sprout wings and mate in the air. Then  
the queen ant flies off to establish a new nest. You generally  
see winged ants swarming in the air late in the evening.





92. FREYMAN: That is interesting. And a relief to know that it's not a termite.
93. JOHN: Well, don't termites have wings too?
94. ENTOMOLOGIST: Sometimes. And a lot of people take the winged edition of the ant for a termite...just as you people did. In fact...we're generally swamped with winged ants that people send in to be identified. It certainly would help us a lot if people would keep them straight.
95. FREYMAN: But can an ordinary person tell an ant from a termite...if they both have wings?
96. ENTOMOLOGIST: I think so ..if they keep a few things in mind.
97. JOHN; Like what?
98. ENTOMOLOGIST: Well..if you've ever looked at an ant carefully...you've probably noticed there are two parts to his body. He has a kind of hour glass figure.
99. FREYMAN: Yes, I can see that plainly on this ant.
100. ENTOMOLOGIST: But a termite has a smooth long body.
101. JOHN: He doesn't wear a girdle.
102. ENTOMOLOGIST: I guess not. There's another clue that's evident without a microscope On the ant...as you can see. .the wing is very narrow where it's attached to the body. But on a termite...the wing is much wider where it meets the body.
103. JOHN: Now those should be easy to remember. The ant has two definite parts to his body...
104. FREYMAN: And his wings are very narrow where they are attached.
105. ENTOMOLOGIST: That's the idea. It certainly would be very helpful if people could remember those points about ants and termites then they could recognize them themselves...and leave harder identification jobs to us.



106. JOHN: Say, I have another question for you. I've been telling Mrs. Freyman ..about how people can send in their bugs for free identification service...it is free isn't it?
107. ENTOMOLOGIST; That's right. We can identify insect specimens without any charge. The Agricultural Experiment Station Entomologist in every State offers the same service. As a matter of fact, I'd suggest you tell your CONSUMER TIME listeners to send them to the State Agricultural Experiment Station first. They usually sift the specimens they get...and send the tougher ones on to us anyway.
108. FREYMAN: I wonder how you find out where your State Experiment Station is.
109. JOHN: I guess your County agent could tell you. .or the State Agricultural College should be able to send you the address. Most State Agricultural Experiment stations are located at the State Agricultural College.
110. FREYMAN: But if somebody did want to send some bugs to you...
111. ENTOMOLOGIST: They could...of course.
112. JOHN: Just pack them up...and mail them to you at the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, U. S. Department of Agriculture.
113. ENTOMOLOGIST: Washington 25, D. C. That's the right address. But I'd like to add a little more about the packaging. In the first place, it's against postal regulations to send live insects through the mail
114. JOHN: Okay...only dead bugs can be mailed
115. ENTOMOLOGIST: Yes...but unless the bugs arrive in good condition...we can't be successful detectives.
116. FREYMAN: How do you suggest they be sent then?
117. ENTOMOLOGIST: Just put the bug in a little rubbing alcohol. That will preserve him.



119. ENTOMOLOGIST: Right. The idea is to get them to us in a good condition and as natural looking as possible.
120. JOHN: Well, thanks a lot for all this information, Doc. Nice of you to take the time.
121. ENTOMOLOGIST: Glad to do it, Johnny.
122. FREYMAN: And thanks so much for telling me the difference between termites and ants. It's certainly a load off my mind.
123. ENTOMOLOGIST: (FADE) You're welcome...you're welcome...come again.
124. FREYMAN: (FADE IN) I really enjoyed that visit, Johnny
125. JOHN: Me too, Mrs. Freyman. It's comforting to know that there are trained men standing ready to recognize harmful insects that may come into this country accidentally.
126. FREYMAN: Insects coming into the country! You didn't tell me anything about that side of the work, Johnny.
127. JOHN: Well, it's an interesting story. It starts at a dock side...
128. SOUND: CROWD NOISES...STEAMSHIP WHISTLE
129. JOHN: A huge ship is steaming in to port. .with puffing little tugs leading the way. On the wharf a man waits. He will be one of the first to go aboard this queen of the sea when she docks. He will examine her from stem to stern...looking for a hidden cargo even the customs inspectors don't see. This man is looking for insects...insects that must not be allowed in this country until the entomology detectives in Washington, D. C., look them over under the microscope and say .."Okay...these bugs are harmless ...they have a clean bill of health."
130. SOUND: AIRPLANE LANDING



131. JOHN: On the opposite coast of our country, a huge silvery bird flashes down from the sky and perches on a wide landing strip. A man detaches himself from his waiting place beside the air hangar and moves toward the resting plane...another Government inspector looking for insect stowaways that must not enter this country unnoticed. From nose to tail he searches the plane... and any insects he finds...take another trip. .to Washington, D. C. where the entomology detectives go to work to identify these unscheduled visitors.
132. SOUND: SPRAYING EQUIPMENT
133. JOHN; And in New Jersey...a farmer sprays his cranberries and looks at a little insect suspiciously and murmurs to himself. ..
134. FARMER: How come this dust spray doesn't work on this fellow. Funny little bugger.. never saw one like him before. Wonder what he's up to in my cranberries. Maybe he's going to cause me trouble. Better find out what he is.
135. JOHN: So this cranberry farmer in New Jersey...wraps up his insect carefully and ships him off to Washington, D. C....to be identified by our detective friends.
136. FREYMAN: And maybe it was the kind of bug we saw your entomologist friend identify today.
137. JOHN: Maybe.. and that's the other part of the story of the detectives who deal with insects. And now, Mrs. Freyman...what's on CONSUMER TIME for next week?
138. FREYMAN: We're going to turn our attention to home safety next week, Johnny.
139. JOHN: That sounds interesting ..and always timely. Accidents in the home cause thousands of needless deaths every year.





140. FREYMAN: And do you know which rooms in the house are the most dangerous, Johnny?
141. JOHN: I'm sure the kitchen must be one of them
142. FREYMAN: Right. And the bathroom is the other. So on next week's program we're going to have some tips from the safety experts on how to cut down the hazards in these two rooms. And some news about what manufacturers are doing to give us improved safety features in new household equipment.
143. JOHN: Fine. Then we have a date to hear about making the home a safer place to live...next week on...
144. SOUND: CASH REGISTER
145. ANNCR: CONSUMER TIME!
146. SOUND: CASH REGISTER....CLOSE DRAWER
147. ANNCR: CONSUMER TIME, written by Eleanor Miller and directed by Frederick Schweikher, is presented by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, through the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company and its affiliated independent stations. It comes to you from Washington, D. C.
- This is NBC, the National Broadcasting Company.

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JUL 10 1947  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE