

# "TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

**TOP SECRET**

December 2024



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## Inside This Issue...

- A Very Special Christmas Story 1
- Rave Reviews! 2
- Free Of Invasive Fruit Flies 2
- Giant Rats To Help Stop Poaching 3
- President's Economic Stimulus 3
- Fun Facts About Christmas Trees 3
- Roaches & Mice Linked to Infection 4

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## A Very Special Christmas Story

As the holiday season of 1938 came to Chicago, Bob May wasn't feeling much comfort or joy. A 34-year-old ad writer for Montgomery Ward, May was exhausted and nearly broke. His wife, Evelyn, was bedridden, on the losing end of a two-year battle with cancer. This left Bob to look after their four-year old-daughter, Barbara.

One night, Barbara asked her father, "Why isn't my mommy like everybody else's mommy?" As he struggled to answer his daughter's question, Bob remembered the pain of his own childhood. A small, sickly boy, he was constantly picked on and called names. But he wanted to give his daughter hope, and show her that being different was nothing to be ashamed of. More than that, he wanted her to know that he loved her and would always take care of her. So he began to spin a tale about a reindeer with a bright red nose who found a special place on Santa's team. Barbara loved the story so much that she made her father tell it every night before bedtime. As he did, it grew more elaborate. Because he couldn't afford to buy his daughter a gift for Christmas, Bob decided to turn the story into a homemade picture book.

In early December, Bob's wife died. Though he was heartbroken, he kept working on the book for his daughter. A few days before Christmas, he reluctantly attended a company party at Montgomery Ward. His co-workers

encouraged him to share the story he'd written. After he read it, there was a standing ovation. Everyone wanted copies of their own. Montgomery Ward bought the rights to the book from their debt-ridden employee. Over the next



six years, at Christmas, they gave away six million copies of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer to shoppers. Every major publishing house in the country was making offers to obtain the book. In an incredible display of good will, the head of the department store returned all rights to Bob May. Four years later, Rudolph had made him into a millionaire.

Now remarried with a growing family, May felt blessed by his good fortune. But there was more to come. His

(turn the page)

### 100 Years Ago . . .

On December 26, 1924, American actress Judy Garland made her show business debut, at the age of two. She joined her two sisters on stage at her parent's movie theatre and sang the song, "Jingle Bells".

### Celebrating A Great Actor's Birthday

*"Women will never be as successful as men because they have no wives to advise them."*

Dick Van Dyke, born December 13, 1925

# Rave Reviews!

*"This is a fantastic company. We had issues with mice in our warehouse and Terry and his crew came out and went above and beyond to catch these critters! The communication is wonderful, along with customer service. Even after catching the mice, they have continued to check up on our situation. This is a fantastic company, with an amazing group of people working for them. Thank you all!"*

Kristin Thompson  
Anaheim

*"I was very impressed with all the details and how thorough they were. I was extremely impressed with the job they did. They seemed very thorough, and gave a lot of attention to details. They checked everything and I would definitely recommend them."*

Jill Schuller  
Costa Mesa

*"Alex explained the services he was going to provide up front. He was very knowledgeable, friendly, and thorough. A very nice experience."*

Ed & Victoria Durgavich  
Laguna Niguel

*"Terry was amazing! He was very competent and knowledgeable in his field. I would definitely recommend his services."*

Janice Cardin  
Seal Beach

*"Terry took his time and did a very thorough job today. He was professional and explained how to mitigate the ant problem by cutting back the plants. Much appreciated!"*

Bob Bauman  
Costa Mesa

*brother-in-law, a successful songwriter named Johnny Marks, set the uplifting story to music. The song was pitched to artists from Bing Crosby on down. They all passed. Finally, Marks approached Gene Autry. The cowboy star had scored a holiday hit with "Here Comes Santa Claus" a few years before. Like the others, Autry wasn't impressed with the song about the misfit reindeer. Marks begged him to give it a second listen. Autry played it for his wife, Ina. She was so touched by the line "They wouldn't let poor Rudolph play in any reindeer games" that she insisted her husband record the tune.*

*Within a few years, it had become the second best-selling Christmas song ever, right behind "White Christmas." Since then, Rudolph has come to life in TV specials, cartoons, movies, toys, games, coloring books, greeting cards and even a Ringling Bros. circus act. The little red-nosed reindeer dreamed up by Bob May and immortalized in song by Johnny Marks has come to symbolize Christmas as much as Santa Claus, evergreen trees and presents. As the last line of the song says, "He'll go down in history."*

Story by: Lydia Hutchinson

## California Declared Free Of Invasive Fruit Flies!

After a year of hard work, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), are proud to announce that all populations of invasive fruit flies have been eradicated in California.

"Invasive fruit flies are among the most destructive and costly pests globally, threatening more

than 400 species of fruits and vegetables, including many of California's most valuable crops such as oranges, grapes, mangoes, blueberries, and tomatoes. The eradication of these pests marks a major victory for California's agricultural economy," said USDA Under Secretary, Jenny L. Moffitt.

The joint eradication effort addressed infestations of five introduced species: Oriental, Tau, Queensland, Mexican, and Mediterranean fruit flies. Quarantines have now been lifted across Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, Santa Clara, San Diego, Riverside, and Ventura Counties.

Hundreds of employees from the USDA's Animal and Plant Inspection Services joined forces with the CDFA and agricultural commissioners for trapping, fruit removal, and survey activities. Advanced eradication techniques were used, including the release of sterile Mediterranean and Mexican fruit flies, so they could disrupt the reproduction of these invasive pests. Organic treatments, with Spinosad, were also used (Spinosad is a natural substance made by a soil bacterium that can be toxic to insects).

CDFA Secretary Ross said, "We are proud of what we have accomplished with the help of California residents. Your support was vital to eradicating these pests and remains essential in protecting our food supply and natural resources from future invasive threats. We are deeply grateful for the public's

continued vigilance in keeping California free from invasive species. Together, we have turned one of our greatest challenges into a triumph.”

## Giant Rats Being Used To Help Stop Wildlife Poaching

Many tourists enjoy going to West Africa to see wildlife. Unfortunately, some species are starting to disappear because of poaching.

Some poachers catch these animals for pet trade. Others kill them for their parts, such as rhino horns and elephant tusks. These parts are often taken to other countries to be sold.

For more than 20 years, African giant pouched rats (*cricetomys ansorgei*), have been used to help clear landmines from over 100 million square meters of land. With their help, over 163,000 landmines have been removed, and 2.2 million people can now safely use their land.

Isabelle Szott used to work with a group called APOPO, where they trained these giant rats to locate landmines. The folks at APOPO came up with the idea of using these rats at ports, where products enter and leave a country.

These rats have an incredible sense of smell, so Szott’s team trained 11 of them to sense different odors. They were trained to sense the smell of scales from a pangolin (a threatened small animal), rhino horns, elephant tusks, and African blackwood (used in some musical instruments).

At the conclusion of this study, 7 of the rats were able to distinguish between the four scents, and 146 other odors.

Lab training is just the beginning. Some rats are already being trained in fake warehouse, and in real ports.

The good news is that these rats

have low training and maintenance costs. They will also work with any trained handler.

If these rats can equal their success in landmine detection by helping us to protect our wildlife, it will be a great achievement!

## President’s Economic Stimulus

A new administration is on their way to Washington DC, and they say they will do a better job of running the country. We shall see. Meanwhile, President Termite Terry “feels your pain” and wants to help by giving you a FREE tank of gas.

Here are just a few more of your fellow citizens who have benefited from his Economic Stimulus Plan:

- Gary Wynn of Coto De Caza referred us to Laura Parker in Ladera Ranch (Gary was previously referred to us by Gary & Barbara Hayes!).
- Then, Laura Parker, of Ladera Ranch, referred us to David Charran of Ladera Ranch.
- Stu Rogen of Costa Mesa referred us to Paul Collas of Lake Forest.
- Gary & Barbara Hayes of Coto de Caza referred another friend, Sharon Mutschler of Irvine.

The President’s plan is easy and with your help, we can **double the number of people who get FREE GAS each month**. All you have to do is simply refer us to someone who needs a termite treatment, wood repairs, or a monthly pest control service. And, if they hire us, we’ll send you a **\$50.00 Gas Card**. That is real economic stimulation you can bank on!

## Fun Facts About Christmas Trees!

The Christmas holiday is just a few weeks away, so let’s look at some fun facts about Christmas trees:

- The oldest record of a decorated Christmas tree in a home came from a 1605 diary, found in Strasburg, Germany. It said the tree was decorated with paper roses, apples, and candles.
- In 1856, Franklin Pierce was the first President to put up a Christmas tree in the White House.
- Today, 98 percent of our Christmas trees are grown on farms.
- In 1923, President Calvin Coolidge started the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, a tradition that continues every year on the White House lawn.
- 21.6 million real Christmas trees were sold in the U.S., in 2023. About 12.9 million artificial trees were also sold last year.
- It is important to water your trees. In the first week, a tree in your home will consume as much as a quart of water per day.
- In 1963, the National Christmas Tree was not lit until December 22 because of a 30-day period of mourning following the assassination of President Kennedy.
- Since 1966, the National Christmas Tree Association has given a Christmas tree to the President for display in the Blue Room. This year’s tree is 20-feet tall!
- Some say that President Teddy Roosevelt banned Christmas trees from the White house because of environmental reasons. The truth is that he didn’t like celebrating the holiday with a tree. His eight-year-old son, Archie, still wanted one so he had a carpenter help him rig up a tree in his closet, and he decorated it with gifts for the whole family. The president later discussed the tree, but offered no reaction to it. ☺

“Termite” Terry’s Insider Information is Published by:  
“Termite” Terry Pest Control, Inc.  
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## **Roaches & Mice Linked To More Infections In Kids With Asthma**

Are cockroaches and mice the reason why some kids with asthma have more colds than others?

Dr. Darlene Bhavnani, of the Dell Medical School at the University of Texas, is heading up this research to determine why certain populations have more asthma and its complications than others.

In this study, allergen concentrations in the participant’s homes were measured in the air (mouse), and in settled dust (mouse, cockroach, dog and cat).

Ninety children participated in the study (92% black, 92% public insurance), and 192 observations were included. During their observations, 52 (27%) of the children had an upper respiratory infection (URI).

The study showed that a doubling of the cockroach allergen concentration increased the odds of a URI with cold symptoms by 18%. They found that the odds of a URI + cold symptoms + pulmonary eosinophilic inflammation increased by 31%, and the odds of a URI + cold symptoms + reduced lung function increased by 45%. Concentrations of mouse allergens were also positively associated with all outcomes.

Conclusions: “Cockroach and mouse, but not dog or cat, allergen exposure may predispose children with asthma to URIs with colds and lower respiratory outcomes.”

Dr. Bhavnani’s goal with this study is to encourage medical providers to not just practice medical protocols, but to start asking about the environment where they live. She said, “It’s not just going to be treatment. Providers can’t just send them back to the environment that made them sick.”

Ladies and gentlemen, if your kids are frequently getting sick and you have a cockroach or mouse problem at your home, you may want to take this study seriously.



“Termite” Terry Singleton