

# "TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

**TOP SECRET**

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[www.termiteterry.com](http://www.termiteterry.com)

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## Christmas Story: "Big Wheel Truckstop"

*In September 1960, I woke up one morning with six hungry babies and just 75 cents in my pocket. Their father was gone. The boys ranged from three months to seven years; their sister was two. Their Dad had never been much more than a presence they feared. Whenever they heard his tires crunch on the gravel driveway they would scramble to hide under their beds. He did manage to leave \$15 a week to buy groceries.*

*Now that he had decided to leave, there would be no more beatings, but no food either. If there were a welfare system in effect in southern Indiana at that time, I certainly knew nothing about it. I scrubbed the kids until they looked brand new and then put on my best homemade dress. I loaded them into the rusty old 51 Chevy and drove off to find a job.*

*The seven of us went to every factory, store, and restaurant in our small town. No luck. The kids stayed crammed into the car and tried to be quiet while I tried to convince whomever would listen that I was willing to learn or do anything. I had to have a job. Still no luck.*

*The last place we went to, just a few miles out of town, was an old Root Beer Barrel drive-in that had been converted to a truck stop. It was called the Big Wheel.*

*An old lady named Granny owned the place and she peeked out of the window from time to time at all those kids. She needed someone on the graveyard shift, 11 at night until seven in the morning. She paid 65 cents an hour*

*and I could start that night. I raced home and called the teenager down the street that baby-sat for people. I bargained with her to come and sleep on my sofa for a dollar a night. She could arrive with her pajamas on and the kids would already be asleep. This seemed like a good arrangement to her, so we made a deal.*

*That night when the little ones and I knelt to say our prayers we all thanked God for finding Mommy a job. And so I started at the Big Wheel. When I got home in the mornings I woke the baby-sitter up and sent her home with one dollar of my tip money – fully half of what I averaged every night.*

*As the weeks went by, heating bills added a strain to my meager wage. The tires on the old Chevy had the consistency of penny balloons and began to leak. I had to fill them with air on the way to work and again every morning before I could go home. One bleak morning, I dragged myself to the car to go home and found four tires in the back seat. New tires! There was no note, no nothing, just those beautiful brand-new tires. Had angels taken up residence in Indiana? I wondered.*

*I made a deal with the local service station. In exchange for his mounting the new tires, I would clean up his office. I remember it took a lot longer to scrub his floor that it did for him to do the tires.*

*I was now working six nights instead of five and it still*  
(turn the page)

### 100 Years Ago . . .

On December 12, 1925, the world's first motel opened in San Luis Obispo, California. Originally named the Milestone Mo-Tel, it is now known as the Motel Inn of San Luis Obispo (It closed down in 1991).

### Remembering A Great Entertainer

*"I once shook hands with Pat Boone and my whole right side sobered up."*

Dean Martin, died 12-25-1995

# Rave Reviews!

*"Thank you for a great job fumigating our house in Cerritos. All components of the job went very well thanks to Skip always being available to answer the questions and giving guidance to the bagging of the ingestible items.*

*Also, the coordination of the Gas company. It's rewarding to have the outline of the project going in and the expectations met as we exit the job.*

*I am glad to refer you to anyone who needs any kind of termite or pest control services."*

Dennis Jenkins, Dennis Jenkins Co.  
Cerritos

*"Terry and his team are top notch. Very good at dealing with tenants, fast call times and they always resolve the issue."*

Chris Clarizio, White Sail Realty  
Newport Beach

*"Alex was extremely professional and very thorough . . . He did an excellent job! Very pleased."*

Trish Lorenzetti  
Irvine

*"Termite Terry and his team eliminated my gopher infestation. After years of taking advice from Carl Spackler and trying to DIY my way out of the gophers destroying my yard, finally my yard is gopher free. They were thorough and checked in with me frequently to update me on their progress. I will use Termite Terry for any pest control I may encounter in the future."*

Brandon Zampelli  
Yorba Linda

*wasn't enough. Christmas was coming and I knew there would be no money for toys for the kids. I found a can of red paint and started repairing some old toys. Then I hid them in the basement so there would be something for Santa to deliver on Christmas morning. Clothes were a worry too. I was sewing patches on top of patches on the boy's pants and soon they would be too far gone to repair.*

*On Christmas Eve the usual customers were drinking coffee in the Big Wheel. These were the truckers, Les, Frank, and Jim, and a state trooper named Joe. A few musicians were hanging around after a gig at the Legion and were dropping nickels in the pinball machine. The regulars all just sat around and talked through the wee hours of the morning and then left to get home before the sun came up.*

*When it was time for me to go home at seven o'clock on Christmas morning I hurried to the car. I was hoping the kids wouldn't wake up before I managed to get home and get the presents from the basement and place them under the tree. (We had cut down a small cedar tree by the side of the road down by the dump.) It was still dark and I couldn't see much, but there appeared to be some dark shadows in the car – or was that just a trick of the night? Something certainly looked different, but it was hard to tell what.*

*When I reached the car I peered warily into one of the side windows. Then my jaw dropped with amazement. My old battered Chevy was filled full to the top with boxes of all shapes and sizes. I quickly opened the driver's side door, scrambled inside and knelt in the front facing the back seat.*

*Reaching back, I pulled off the lid of the top box. Inside was a whole case of little blue jeans, sizes 2-10! I looked inside another box: It was full of shirts to go with the jeans. Then I peeked inside some of the other boxes: There was candy and nuts and bananas and bags of groceries. There was an enormous ham for baking, and canned vegetables and potatoes. There was*

*pudding and Jell-O and cookies, pie filling and flour. There was a whole bag of laundry supplies and cleaning items. And there were five toy trucks and one beautiful doll.*

*As I drove back through empty streets as the sun slowly rose on the most amazing Christmas Day of my life, I was sobbing with gratitude. And I will never forget the joy on the faces of my little ones that precious morning.*

*Yes, there were angels in Indiana that long-ago December. And they all hung out at the Big Wheel truck stop.*

The author is unknown.

## Termite Terry Is At UC Riverside's Fumigation School!

This year, Termite Terry was invited to train the students on how to prepare their homes for a fumigation. In this photo, you can see him in a home's kitchen with the students, going over all the details, and answering their questions.



UC Riverside's Fumigation School is an annual event, and this year we had students attend from states as far away as Florida and Texas. Dong-Hwan Choe, Ph.D., Michael Rust, Ph.D., Chow-Yang Lee, Ph.D., and other experts from the industry were just some of the featured speakers at this two-day event. Termite Terry strongly recommends this school to anyone who wants to further their career in the pest control industry.

## Termites Are Being Spread Around The World On Boats

A new study shows that boats are playing a role by helping to spread invasive termites around the world. The study was led by Thomas Chouvenc, an associate professor at the University of Florida.

“Termites are a big problem for homeowners as they can damage wood in structures and infest trees. However, more and more cities are at risk of termite damage since some invasive species continue to spread in many new areas of the world,” Chouvenc says.

“Their ongoing successful dispersal of invasive termites is not a feat of their own: We have made it easier for them to conquer the world, and private boats are the ultimate vessels.”

In the study, they summarized a combination of field surveys, genetic analysis, and historical data. The study makes a good case that boats, especially those used for recreational purposes, are a major cause for the spread of termites across continents.

In past history, some termites have been suspected of being able to travel long distances on floating debris left from hurricanes, tsunamis or landslides.

It’s a game changer,” says Chouvenc. “Instead of a few termites accidentally crossing oceans once in a million years, we now have a high probability of them traveling on infested boats every year, dramatically increasing their spread potential.”

“In Florida and many other tropical regions, the risk is high because recreational boating is so prevalent,” Chouvenc warned. “Boats in these areas are likely to be infested, but

unless owners take proactive steps, the spread of termites will continue unchecked.”

Chouvenc is recommending that boat owners have their vessels regularly inspected and treated to help prevent the spread of termites.

Do you have a boat and need a termite inspection? **Call us at (949) 631-7348** and we’ll be happy to schedule an inspection at your convenience.

## President’s Economic Stimulus

The State of California is not doing anything to help lower our high gasoline prices. 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:

- John Alban of Huntington Beach referred us to Katherine Elford of Huntington Beach.
- Dawn Adelsberg of Newport Beach referred us to John Bougs of Newport Beach.
- Shaun Widney of San Juan Capistrano referred us to Tony Fisch of Laguna Beach.
- David Declark of San Juan Capistrano recommended our services to Nancy Hansen of Newport Beach.

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!

## National Fruitcake Day!

National Fruitcake Day is celebrated on December 27<sup>th</sup>. So, let’s look at some fun facts about one of our favorite holiday deserts:

- Historians tell us that the first fruitcakes were made by the ancient Egyptians. These were not eaten, but instead were tucked into the tombs with their dead so they could be enjoyed in the afterlife.
- The Romans were some of the first to make and eat fruit cakes. They mixed pine nuts, barley mash, pomegranate seeds, raisins, and honeyed wine into a cake they called “satura”.
- Fruitcakes can be preserved for over 20 years if made with alcohol – even without refrigeration.
- The first mail-order fruitcake business was started in 1913 by the Collin Street Bakery, of Corsicana Texas.
- A pineapple fruitcake was sent with the Apollo 11 space mission. The astronauts did not eat it, and it is now on display at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.
- Fruitcakes are like fine wine because they get better with age.
- According to the New York Daily News, fruitcakes are ranked number six on the list of the most regifted Christmas items.
- Most fruitcakes weigh between two and three pounds. The heaviest fruitcake on record was baked in Nicaragua and weighed 31,865 pounds!
- While most mass-produced fruitcakes in America are alcohol-free, some traditional recipes include liqueurs or brandy.
- Johnny Carson once said, “There is only one fruitcake in the entire world, and people keep passing it around.”

*Merry Christmas!*

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## Bug Bombs Linked To Home’s Explosion

A home was left uninhabitable after an explosion occurred when one of its residence set off five bug bombs to try and solve their roach problem.

When firefighters arrived at the scene, they found that the windows were blown out on three sides of the home. There was also a small fire in the kitchen. They were able to put out the fire quickly. No major injuries were noted.

Officials reported that the explosion was linked to the bug bombs, which are pressurized canisters that release pesticide droplets into the air. It is important to note that the contents of these products are propelled by flammable gases and if all pilot lights are not turned off, an explosion can occur.

“People usually don’t read the instructions on that, and it says make sure all your pilot lights are secured, before setting these off. So the vapor, when it comes out is flammable. It just found the ignition source and had the right conditions inside and it all flashed at one time,” said the fire captain.

Three people, two dogs, and a cat are now without a home.

Ladies and gentlemen, if you have read any university research papers, you know that their studies have shown that bug bombs are not effective in controlling cockroaches. Many strains of cockroaches are immune to these products, and this is a major reason why they do not work. You should also know that bug bombs release pesticide droplets into the air and they land on all surfaces, leaving everything toxic to the touch.

Do you have a problem with roaches? Let’s not risk using these dangerous products. Instead, please call a professional who uses safer and more effective control measures.



“Termite” Terry Singleton