

INVENTION

Patent List Stirs Interest

Inventors may offer their devices for sale or licensing in simple, informal letter. Big as well as small businesses among those inquiring.

► THE U. S. Patent Office's newest service to the public, a register of patents available for licensing or sale, is arousing the interest of big industry as well as small business, where the liveliest response was expected from the first. In the correspondence received during the first month's existence of the Register have been letters and personal inquiries from representatives of some of the largest manufacturing concerns in the country. They are concerned not only with finding patents suitable for their use, but also with offering patents of their own for licensing to other producers.

Thus far, some 300 patents, held by about 200 inventors, have been offered for listing in the Register. Condensed, plain-English descriptions of a considerable number have already appeared in print. Those still unpublished are available for inspection at the Patent Office here.

Official red tape and long-winded legal jargon have been swept into the discard together, in the preparation of the new Register. The owner of the patent merely writes a letter, enclosing a copy of his patent or giving its number and enclosing ten cents to pay for a copy. He also makes the statement that he is willing to sell or license his rights in the patent on reasonable terms. The Patent Office then publishes a terse, one- or two-sentence description in the Register, giving the owner's address. Further negotiations are conducted directly between owner and prospective licensee or purchaser.

A mailing list is maintained, on which interested manufacturers may have their names entered on request. They will have marked copies of the Register mailed to them, calling attention to available patents in the particular class or category with which they are most concerned. A similar service is maintained for trade journals, which publish the descriptions for the benefit of their clients.

A few highlights from among the patents thus far listed:

Telephone lock, to prevent unauthorized use of telephone instruments for outgoing calls.

Compartmented cigarette package, from which empty cells are removed as cigarettes are used. Pack diminishes in size, but remaining cigarettes are protected against squashing.

Dictating machine vacuum cleaner, which sucks away wax dust from cylinders and deposits it in a suitable receptacle.

Mottled paint, consisting of drops of varicolored enamel immersed in liquid with which they will not mix. Spread by brush, they give mottled or streaked effect.

Electric light that, when dropped into water, turns itself over, floats to surface, and lights up.

Fireplace ashpan, with hinged cover to prevent contents from spilling during removal, adjustable to any size fireplace.

Measuring device consisting of small wheel to be rolled over line to be measured; can be set to click for any desired number of inches or feet.

Pilot light for electric iron, which indicates whether current is on or off.

Folding chair with detachable legs and back, which can be boxed in compact cylindrical container.

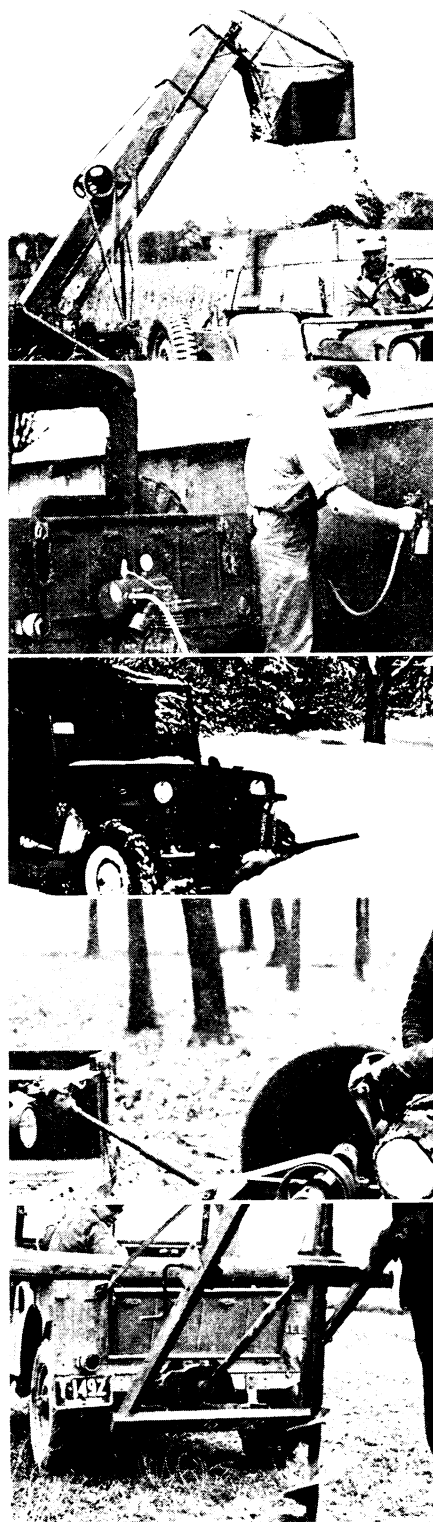
Science News Letter, July 28, 1945

ENGINEERING

Jeep Redesigned For Peacetime Farm Jobs

► THE JEEP, which has gone through the war as the Army's dependable mechanical burro, is now being groomed for postwar jobs down on the farm. The civilian version of this handy little quarter-ton truck-of-all-work was put through its paces near Toledo, Ohio, before a group of newspaper and newsreel men, on the 2,000-acre experimental farm of Willys-Overland Motors, Inc.

Outstanding change in the jeep's design is a power takeoff just above the towing hitch at the rear. This makes it possible to use part or all of the engine's power for such jobs as sawing wood, digging post-holes, pumping water, running cornshellers, etc. In effect, it converts the jeep into a highly mobile power plant that (Turn to page 63)



FUTURE JEEP—The postwar jeep will find many uses on the farm, such as the ones pictured in this Willys-Overland Motors photograph. From top to bottom: with a field cutter operating on rye; painting barns; clearing snow; buzzing wood; digging post holes.