

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 Those still unpublished are available for inspection at the Patent Office here.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.

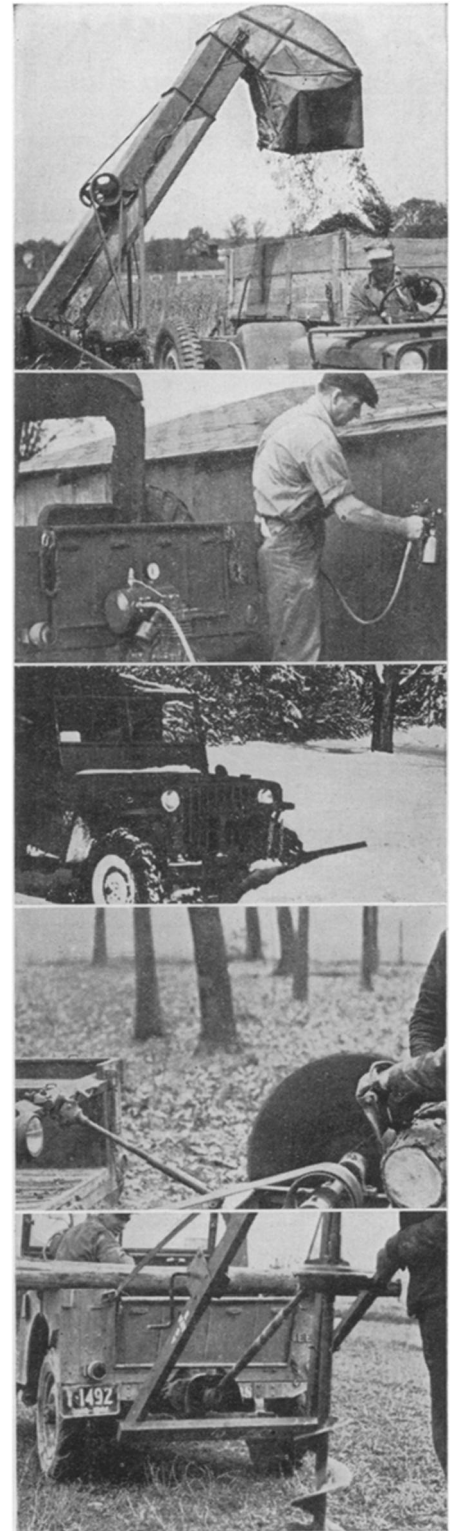
Science News Letter, July 28, 1945

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.

• New Machines and Gadgets •

⚙️ **FULCRUMED** fork is any garden fork with a recently patented attachable leg fastened under the handle relatively near its lower portion. This is to help in lifting the load after the fork has been pushed into the ground.

Science News Letter, July 28, 1945

⚙️ **ELECTRONIC** color detective, that scientifically selects paint which absorbs the least amount of light and heat of the sun, plots an exact curve of the amount of light reflected by a paint sample, detecting particularly invisible red rays. A shade of battleship gray that absorbs the least red was thus selected to aid in keeping the ship cool.

Science News Letter, July 28, 1945

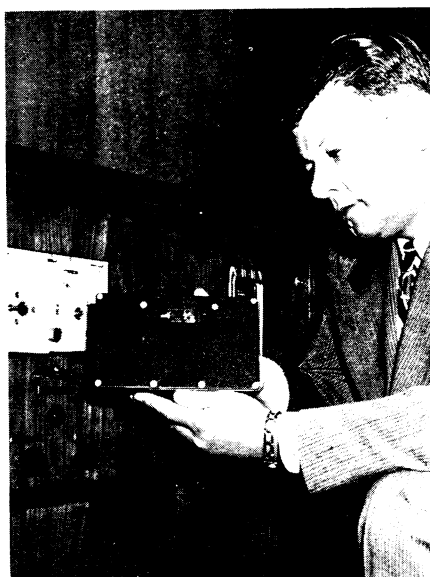
⚙️ **BURIAL CASKETS** made of plastics, sealed electrically, may soon be available under a recent patent. The plastic is the type that may be softened by heat. Electric heating elements, embedded in the body portion, form a tight joint with the cover when the house current is applied to them.

Science News Letter, July 28, 1945

⚙️ **LIFE PRESERVER**, improved type, is a vest-like garment that supports the wearer in the water in an upright position, but inclined slightly backward. The preserver, filled with a removable buoyant material, is reversible, fits snugly about the waist with a cord, and has a strap handle on the back to assist the rescuer.

Science News Letter, July 28, 1945

⚙️ **WIRE RECORDER** sets, attachable to home radio receivers, record music or



words from the air or from the microphone by moving a long thin wire across the poles of a magnet. When the wire is re-run across the magnet, the record is reproduced by the loudspeaker.

Science News Letter, July 28, 1945

⚙️ **COMBINATION SHOVEL**, pick and axe, has a handle with one threaded end on which the shovel blade may be screwed, and pivoted joints on the sides for the pick and axe opposite each other. When not in use, pick and axe are turned lengthwise with the handle. A special catch holds either in working position when desired.

Science News Letter, July 28, 1945

⚙️ **COMBINATION** ice and roller skate has the ordinary foot plate mounted on

single front and rear wheels. Around the rim of each wheel is a relatively narrower band of hard metal with sharpened outer edges for digging into the ice when the wheel is tilted sidewise in ice skating.

Science News Letter, July 28, 1945

If you want more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 269.

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can carry 40 horsepower to any corner of the farm and then put it to work there.

The civilian jeep, like its Army prototype, can still "pull like a mule and climb like a goat," but its gear ratios and clutch area have been changed to fit its pace to the needs of farm life. It can operate as slow as three miles an hour in plowing, harrowing or seeding fields, it can speed up to 60 miles an hour as a passenger vehicle or a light pick-up truck, or it can run at an intermediate rate towing a trailer with a load of as much as 2½ tons.

Other changes include more comfortable seat cushions, larger headlights, redesigned steering gear, gear-shift lever on steering column, tail-gate on truck section.

Some of the dozens of farm tasks which the new jeep can perform are: mixing cement, plowing snow, filling silos, baling hay, spraying orchards, spray-painting or whitewashing buildings, stretching fence wire, spreading fertilizer.

Science News Letter, July 28, 1945

Question Box

AERONAUTICS

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ASTRONOMY

How many "dippers" are in the sky? p. 58.

CHEMISTRY

How can you postpone old age? p. 57.
What effect does light have on the vitamins in tomatoes? p. 56.

GENERAL SCIENCE

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What are the principal recommendations of the Kilgore committee? p. 50.

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MEDICINE

How did Soviet physicians restore life to dead Army officers and men? p. 50.

NUTRITION

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How old are admirals? p. 56.

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How has child mortality been reduced in Russia? p. 54.

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BOOKS

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