

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

For addresses where you can get more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N. St., Washington 6, D. C. and ask for Gadget Bulletin 494. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **ADJUSTABLE SHOE HEEL**, recently patented, is constructed in two parts, the rear portion being round in shape and held to the top lift of the heel with screws. When this disk becomes worn on the "walking edge" it can be rotated to a new position by loosening the screws, or it can be replaced.

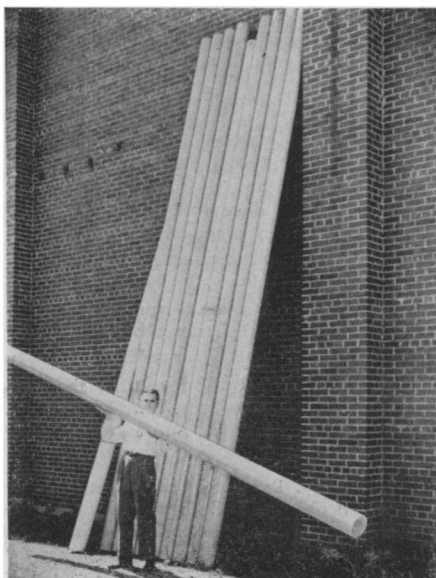
Science News Letter, December 3, 1949

⚙️ **ROLLING MAST** on dry land, in use by the U. S. Navy, will perform all the gyrations of a mast on a ship in a storm. Any combination of roll, pitch and yaw can be obtained with this 75-foot mast by electrical machinery. The mast is for use in testing instruments under severe conditions.

Science News Letter, December 3, 1949

⚙️ **MAGNETIC STIRRER**, for laboratory use, operates on either steam or compressed air to effect stirring action at steambath or room temperatures. Since there are no electrical components, it is completely safe to use with inflammable, volatile substances and in hazardous locations.

Science News Letter, December 3, 1949



⚙️ **GLASS PIPE**, shown in the picture, is actually glass fiber impregnated with resin, and has as its chief value its lightness. The weight is about one-fourth that of comparable steel pipe. It was developed for

use by the U. S. Armed Services in cross-country fuel lines.

Science News Letter, December 3, 1949

⚙️ **CIGARETTE LIGHTER FUEL**, an English preparation which comes in a two-inch gelatin container and is now available in America, can also be used to remove stains and grease, clean glasses and remove lipstick from collars. The container is unbreakable but easily opened with a pin.

Science News Letter, December 3, 1949

⚙️ **CARRYING CASE** for ladies' hosiery, cosmetics and handkerchiefs is a handleless handbag-like affair with four snag-free pockets, each about six inches square. Made of a quilted, satin-textured vinyl plastic, easily washable, it comes in four color combinations.

Science News Letter, December 3, 1949

⚙️ **LUGGAGE CARRIER** has folding frame with caster wheels and is designed for easy cartage of suitcases, trunks and packing cases weighing up to 300 pounds. Rubber-covered gripping posts leave luggage unmarred, and its rubber-covered swivel wheels protect fine floors. The device weighs less than two pounds.

Science News Letter, December 3, 1949

## • Do You Know? •

The *chrome* on the family car can be cleaned with a good household scouring powder.

Norwegian educators are bringing *instruction in English* by radio to even the most remote rural schools.

The *prime meridian*, Greenwich, London, now generally recognized throughout the world, was adopted by international agreement just 65 years ago.

The true *Iceberg lettuce* is a variety with red-tinged leaves that has no commercial value; what is purchased as Iceberg is the New York and Imperial strains.

A new type of *bus* already on American highways has a 17-passenger compartment in the front half and an equally large compartment to the rear to carry freight.

*Musk rats*, quarantined from Norway for years, may soon become highly-favored animals in northern sections where it is now suggested they be raised, principally for their fur.

At any given moment, some 1,800 *thunderstorms* are probably occurring throughout the world.

About one-third of *coal* is volatile matter easily driven off by heat and lost up the chimney unless proper furnace-firing methods are used by the home-owner or firemen.

The United States could support a *population* double its present size at a standard of living eight times as high as now, a prominent economist recently stated.

*Malaria-bearing mosquitoes* have a habit of resting on the walls of houses after getting a meal of blood, a habit that makes them easily killed by DDT if the walls have been sprayed with this insecticide.

*Fuchsias*, a familiar house plant of several decades ago and now becoming popular again, was often known as Lady's Eardrops because of the form of its flower; in its native South America it grows to a shrub or tree.

Florida sands containing *titanium* and *zirconium* are being drill-explored in 10 counties by the federal government in anticipation of expected wider uses of these metals, particularly titanium for use in construction.

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