company is a potential buyer of your idea. Thus under the heading of "Weeders," about 40 companies and their addresses are listed.

You may be unsuccessful in persuading a company to make your device. That is the "calculated risk" you take. But on the other hand, you may be successful. And that extra income should be mighty handy.

### Many Items Patentable

A search through Patent Office records reveals many items you probably would not consider patentable. An automatic hattipper, for instance, was awarded patent number 556,248, years ago. The device clamped inside bowler hats and rested on the wearer's head. By merely nodding at a passing lady, the wearer caused his hat to

tip a salute.

A "better mousetrap" received patent number 883,611. The gadget was designed to frighten mice away rather than to kill them. Bait enticed the mouse to stick his head through a hole in the cage-like affair. spring collar surrounded the hole. Attached to the collar was a small bell. When the mouse stuck his head through, the collar clamped around the mouse's neck. The inventor believed other mice would be scared away when the tinkling mouse returned to the nest.

One inventor received patent number 323,416 on a pair of suspenders having a long cord attached to them. The idea was that if the wearer ever got trapped in a burning building with no means of escape, he could detach the cord and lower it to the ground where a rope could be tied to it. Then he could haul up the rope and escape.

Those patents may sound frivolous, and indeed, they well may be. But perhaps they give you an idea of just what sort of thing CAN be patented.

The device you worked out to help you around the house probably is not frivolous. Chances are that many other home owners would like to have a labor-saver just like yours. And the bigger the market is for your device, the greater your chance is of turning your inventive genius into cash.

Science News Letter, September 20, 1952

GERONTOLOGY

# Old Folks Have Broader **Outlook Than Youngsters**

▶DO NOT PUT the old folks on the shelf because they are set in their ways. Drs. M. E. Linden and P. D. Courtney of Norristown, Pa., State Hospital, reporting to the Gerontological Society meeting in Washington, exploded the old idea that elderly people have narrowed interests.

Our custom of relegating the older person to a "back shelf" is due, in their opinion, to an overemphasis on the importance of youth and sexual fertility.

The social outlook of old people is actually broader and less self-centered than that of younger people.

Science News Letter, September 20, 1952



SINCE the last war a great musical awakening has electrified the music-loving world —a sudden realization that the foremost music being written today is American music—and that American composers have been writing enjoyable melodies, important music for the past 200 years! In all the great concert halls the most famous orchestras, conductors, solo-

the most famous orchestras, conductors, soloists, chamber groups are performing this music for delighted audiences.

And now an outstanding musical organization has embarked on a program of creating high fidelity recordings of 200 years of American music! Every form of musical expression is included in this program – symphonic, choral, instrumental and chamber works, folk-music, theatre music . . . music of America at work and at play; music of America growing, laughing . . music born of the love of liberty and the love of fun, the love of good living and the love of God. Whatever your tastes—here is music for you!

# HOW THIS MUSIC CAME TO BE RECORDED

Recently, the directors of the renowned Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University awarded a substantial grant which made possible the founding of the American Recording Society, whose sole purpose is to record and release each month a new full-frequency recording of American mysic on Lorg Play. recording of American music, on Long Play-

## ARE THE RECORDS EXPENSIVE?

No, to the contrary. These recordings which are pressed for the Society by the custom

department of RCA Victor are priced below most L.P.'s of comparable quality—only \$4.35 for 10" records, and \$4.95 for 12" records. The American Recording Society Philharmonic Orchestra engages the finest available conductors and artists, and all recordings are made with the latest high-fidelity equipment, and pressed directly from a limited number of silver-sputtered masters.

#### HOW THE SOCIETY OPERATES

Your purchase of either of the Long-Playing records offered above for only \$1.00 does not obligate you to buy any additional records from the Society—ever! However, we will be from the Society—ever! However, we will be happy to extend to you the courtesy of an Associate Membership. Each month, as an Associate Member, you will be offered an American Recording Society recording by a famous American composer, at the special Club price. If you do not wish to purchase any particular record, you need merely return the form provided for that purpose.

## FREE RECORDS OFFERED

With each two records purchased at the regu-



lar Club price you will receive an additional record of comparable quality ABSOLUTELY FREE. However, because the number of records which can be pressed from silver-sputtered masters is necessarily limited, we urge you to mail the coupon at once!

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1 0 1	Please send me the record checked above, for which I enclose \$1.00 as full payment. As an Associate Member in the American Recording Society, I will receive the Society's publication which will give me advance notice of each new monthly Society Long. Playing selection which I am entitled to purchase at the special Membership price of only \$4.95 for 12" records, \$4.35 for 10" records plus a few cents for U.S. tax and shipping. However, I may decline to purchase any or all Society records offered to me, with each two Society recordings I do purchase, you will send me an additional record ABSOLUTELY FREE.
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