

INVENTION

Improve Partition for Rear Seat Separation

► K. T. KELLER, chairman of the Board of the Chrysler Corporation, has been granted a patent by the U. S. Patent Office.

His invention is an improved partition between the back and front seats of an automobile, so that the rear seat "may be converted to and from a limousine style compartment."

The glass partition in Mr. Keller's invention is frameless and is molded in a curve from top to bottom. Lack of a frame affords an unobstructed view for the rear seat passengers and also eliminates the strain generally applied to the edge portions of the partition.

Mr. Keller's patent number is 2,632,668 and it is assigned to the Chrysler Corporation, Highland Park, Mich.

Science News Letter, April 18, 1953



East Meets West

► EASTERNERS, SPENDING their first spring season in southern California, Arizona or New Mexico, are very apt to exclaim over finding violets and buttercups, anemones and shooting-stars among the chaparral.

Even some of the other flowers which they don't recognize so easily, like some of the western pentstemons and mimuli, have the same delicacy of texture to their leaves, the same dainty tints to their flowers, that mark the spring offerings of the humid woods of the East and somehow seem out of place in the western brushlands.

The secret is that for a few weeks in spring the desert is not quite a desert, and the humid woods are not as humid as they seem: East and West have met each other halfway. What little rain the desert gets is most likely to fall in late winter and early spring, and the seeds and bulbs and rootstocks of the desert's spring flowers take quick advantage of this moisture and expand their leaves and open their flowers in the mild warmth of the April sun.

At the same time, the eastern woodlands are being swept by spring winds and are getting nearly the full benefit of the warm sunshine, with as yet very little development of the leafy canopy that will later block off a large part of the light and slow the winds to weak breezes.

This means that evaporation rates are much higher in April than they will be from mid-May onwards; for a little while, the woodlands approach the condition of the chaparral as the chaparral approaches the condition of the woodlands.

Somewhat similar, though with a difference, is the later coming of spring to the higher altitudes, where the last of the snows do not thaw until June or, at the greater elevations, even early July. Here the same delicate spring flowers appear, to strangers' eyes, seemingly incongruous as they crowd amid the rocks or carpet a meadow on the bank of a glacier-fed stream.

Sells Several Stories as Result of Training



"N.I.A. training helped me to make several sales since I embarked on full-time free-lancing. The latest entitled, 'Cabin Pressurization,' was published in Aviation and Yachting Magazine."—Henry S. Galus, 164 Cedar Grove, New Bedford, Mass.

How Do You Know You Can't Write?

HAVE you ever tried? Have you ever attempted even the least bit of training, under competent guidance?

Or, even though you realize that the ability to write fluently is so important to scientists, have you been sitting back waiting for the day to come when you will awaken all of a sudden to the discovery, "I am a writer"?

If the latter course is the one of your choosing, you probably never will write. Lawyers must be law clerks. Doctors must be internes. Engineers must be draftsmen.

That is why the Newspaper Institute of America bases its writing instruction on journalism—continuous writing—the training that has produced so many successful authors.

Learn to write by writing

Newspaper Institute's New York Copy Desk Method starts and keeps you writing in your own home. You receive actual assignments, just as if you were at work on a great metropolitan daily. Your writing is individually corrected and constructively criticized. Under such sympathetic guidance, you will find that (instead of vainly trying to copy someone else's writing tricks) you are rapidly creating your own distinctive, self-flavored style.

Many potential writers become awestruck by fabulous stories about millionaire authors and, therefore, give little thought to the \$25, \$50 and \$100 or more that can often be earned for material that takes little time to write: articles on—science, hobbies, travel, scientific papers, church articles and club activities, etc.—things that can easily be turned out in leisure moments.

A chance to test yourself—FREE.

Our unique Writing Aptitude Test tells whether you possess the fundamental qualities necessary to successful writing—acute observation, dramatic instinct, creative imagination, etc. You'll enjoy taking this test. The coupon will bring it free, without obligation. Newspaper Institute of America, One Park Ave., New York 16, N. Y. (Founded 1925.)

(Licensed by State of New York)

FREE NEWSPAPER INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, ONE PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

Send me, without cost or obligation, your Free Writing Aptitude Test and further information about writing for profit, as promised in Science News Letter, April 18.

Mr. _____
 Mrs. } _____
 Miss } _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

(All correspondence confidential. No salesman will call on you.)

Check here if Veteran. 117-D-803

Copyright 1953 Newspaper Institute of America.

Blossom-time is short on the mountainsides, so you are apt to find a grand jumble of spring, summer and autumn flowers, all hurrying through their cycle of bloom and seed production.

There will be harebell and phlox for the spring, Indian paintbrush and evening primrose for the summer, and fringed gentian and wild aster for the autumn, all going at once.

Science News Letter, April 18, 1953

PSYCHOLOGY

Recording Emotions Helps Budding Writer

► THEATER-GOERS AT the State University of Iowa can register an electronic raspberry by pushbutton if they do not like the play they are seeing.

However, the system for evaluating student-written plays has one drawback: it is too simple. The audience sometimes forgets to register its emotions.

Dr. E. C. Mabie, the University theater's director, said a more complicated system should solve the problem. He and his associates have improved the response on existing equipment by seating the audience around tables.

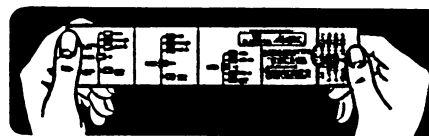
When a play is to be tested, each member of the audience is given a "teeter-totter switch" that registers "like" in one position and "dislike" in another. The switches are connected to instruments that pen the viewer's reactions on a chart. At the same time, a tape recorder captures the scene in sound so that researchers can study audience reaction to definite sections.

The scientists also are using the emotion-recording system to probe the psychological make-up of audiences. Their findings seem to show that:

1. Men and women, on the whole, like about the same things.
2. Men like scenes dominated by men, and women prefer scenes dominated by women.
3. Both sexes like comic situations and prefer them to serious scenes.
4. Women like love scenes better than men do.
5. "Family situations" also appeal more strongly to women than to men.

Science News Letter, April 18, 1953

New Revised! 800 Element Facts at Your Fingertips!



The Elemental Slyd-Rul now completely up to date. Symbol, weight, density, number, valences, color, M & BP in °C for 98 elements plus recent name changes. In tough-check cardboard stock. \$1. postpaid. Student rate: 12 or more, 75c ea.

The Slyd-Rul Co., Canaan, N. Y.

