

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **SELF-SHARPENING RAZOR** hones a double-edge blade in the safety razor. A flick of the wrist before or while shaving automatically sharpens the blade. The razor is made in one piece and plated in gold.

Science News Letter, November 17, 1956

⚙️ **FIRE ALARM** for the home provides automatic cut-off for central heating, cooling or attic fans. Heat from a fire sets off the alarm and simultaneously cuts off forced air systems. Operation of the alarm is not impaired by the cut-off relay and operation can be tested at any time.

Science News Letter, November 17, 1956

⚙️ **MECHANICAL DUCK** for hunters goes through feeding motions, bobbing its head in and out of the water. The decoy is molded in life-like proportions from weather resistant butyrate plastic. The duck is operated from a four-and-one-half volt battery in the shooting blind and comes with a 25-yard control cord, plug and switch.

Science News Letter, November 17, 1956

⚙️ **DOUBLE-DUTY CUP** for the home cook can be used to measure either wet or dry ingredients. Molded in one piece from a translucent white polyethylene plastic,



the measurer is actually two cups end to end, as shown in the photograph. After using one end, it is turned over and a clean cup is ready.

Science News Letter, November 17, 1956

⚙️ **POCKET SIZED RECEIVER** calls doctors to a hospital bed. A British invention,

the receiver operates without wires, working by magnetic induction from audio frequency currents passing along a wire surrounding the hospital building.

Science News Letter, November 17, 1956

⚙️ **PLASTIC WINDOW** is shatterproof and nonflammable. Made of a rigid, high-impact vinyl plastic, the window is especially designed for industrial plants. The material can be machined, planed, sawed, drilled, nailed, cemented or welded. It can reduce as much as 80% of the sun's glare.

Science News Letter, November 17, 1956

⚙️ **RAIN CATCHER** prevents rain from draining into an automobile when the ventilator windows are open. Fitting all popular late-model cars with squared-corner ventilator windows, the rain catcher can be installed without the use of tools.

Science News Letter, November 17, 1956

⚙️ **ELECTRIC CAN OPENER** opens cans of any size, dented or damaged cans, and odd-shaped cans. Equipped with removable blades for cleaning, the opener has a magnet that picks up and holds the lid when the cutting is completed. The motor-driven kitchen utensil is made of steel and zinc.

Science News Letter, November 17, 1956



Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

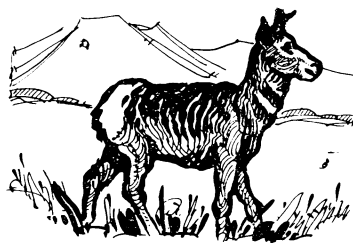
➤ AS ONE OF A SERIES on American wildlife, a beautiful new United States postage stamp, bearing the picture of a prong-horned antelope, has recently been put on sale. The story of the pronghorn, symbolized in this stamp, is a fascinating one.

In the days before the coming of the pioneers, winter herds of pronghorns, *Antilocapra americana*, abounded on the plains and deserts of the West. Like the bison, the pronghorns seemed numberless and inexhaustible.

However, as the human population of the West grew, the number of pronghorns dwindled away, until finally the pronghorns teetered on the edge of total extinction.

Probably the basic cause of the pronghorns' decline was the uneven competition between man and beast for space to live in. Fenced grazing land and plowed up prairies were too much for the pronghorns. Add to this the effect of indiscriminate

Reappearing Americans



slaughter by thoughtless hunters, and the result was obvious. The graceful pronghorns were on their way out.

Survivors retreated to the wild, unfriendly areas farthest from man to take their last stand.

Then, close to the turn of the century, men with vision and love of wild America stepped into the picture. Through their pioneering efforts, Americans awoke to the need for conservation of our disappearing wildlife and preservation of areas of primitive wilderness.

One of the results of their efforts was that the remaining pronghorns received strict protection.

The story has a happy ending. The pronghorns began to make a come-back in their protected retreats. Today, large herds of pronghorns can be found over much of their former range in non-agricultural areas — from southwestern Canada to central Mexico and from western Iowa to parts of California.

So plentiful are they in several districts that controlled hunting is allowed. Thus, a "vanishing American" has been brought back by conservation in action.

Although also called the "prong-horned antelope," the pronghorn actually represents a family midway between the antelopes and the deers.

True antelopes have horns that are solid and permanent. The pronghorn sheds his hollow horns each year. Differing from the deer's antler, the pronghorn's horn fits over a bony base which projects from its head.

Science News Letter, November 17, 1956