

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **PORTABLE LABORATORY** for measuring bacterial pollution in water provides complete incubations in 18 to 20 hours and a uniform temperature within one degree Fahrenheit plus or minus. The water testing lab can be converted to run on auto batteries.

Science News Letter, July 20, 1957

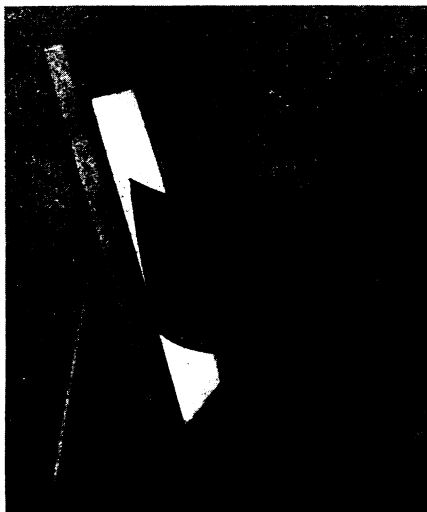
⚙️ **INFLATABLE BEACH BAG** is a combination carry-all and air pillow for use at the beach, pool or on picnics. Made of laminated layers of a plastic film, the bag is resistant to tearing and salt-water spray. A push-in plug valve holds the air in.

Science News Letter, July 20, 1957

⚙️ **SELF-STICKING TAPE** for blue prints and white prints is in red and will reproduce photographically. Made of polyester film, the tape is described as dimensionally stable, of high strength and non-brittle. It is available in nine patterns and six widths.

Science News Letter, July 20, 1957

⚙️ **TRANSPARENCY ILLUMINATOR**, billed as the world's thinnest, has a ten-by-ten-inch luminous surface, shown in the photograph, that is even and color-balanced. Heatless, the illuminator is two inches thick



and weighs less than three pounds. It can be carried in a brief case and/or hung on a wall.

Science News Letter, July 20, 1957

⚙️ **BATH SPONGE** solves the problem of what to do with bits and pieces of soap bars. Woven from plastic, the sponge is

made in the form of a pouch, with a draw-string at one end. Soap placed inside can be used until dissolved.

Science News Letter, July 20, 1957

⚙️ **MINIATURE FLOATS** are designed to reduce evaporation losses of volatile solutions. Made of a foamed polyethylene plastic, the floats contain thousands of tiny, closed air cells for buoyancy. Chemically inert, the floats neither contaminate a solution nor are affected by it.

Science News Letter, July 20, 1957

⚙️ **INDUSTRIAL GLOVES** are described as being thinner than surgeon's gloves. Corrosion-resistant, the gloves can be turned inside out and worn reversed for jobs requiring a non-slip grip. Available in small, medium and large, the industrial gloves are 10½ inches long.

Science News Letter, July 20, 1957

⚙️ **COMBINATION TESTER** is a flashlight and circuit checker. Resembling a conventional flashlight, the tool's tail end houses a compact circuit-testing unit and a plug-in receptacle. The flashlight operates on two standard batteries. A 30-inch plug-in test cord and needle clips are provided.

Science News Letter, July 20, 1957



Nature Ramblings



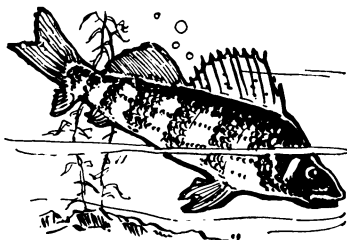
By HORACE LOFTIN

➤ **THE PERCH** is a frisky, familiar fish—and a tasty one. This family of fishes has representatives both in the old and the new world, so that the first colonists found an old friend in the virgin American lakes and streams.

The true perch family (Percidae) is confined to bodies of fresh water in the Northern Hemisphere. The perches are generally elongate and typically have the two dorsal (back) fins clearly separated. On the other hand, the sunfishes (Centrarchidae) with which they are most often confused have their two dorsal fins fused together.

The champion of American perches is the yellow pikeperch (or walleye) of the Great Lakes region. This fish may grow to three feet in length and weigh some 25 pounds. At the other extreme in perch size is the least darter, which is sexually mature when about one inch long.

The Perches



All of the true perches are meat-eaters. Even the youngest fry feed mostly on microscopic animals. As they grow larger, they change over to a diet of insects and other such fare. The mature forms of the larger perches are voracious eaters of minnows and other fish, accounting for their popularity with anglers.

One group of perches, called the darters, is generally quite small—"minnow sized."

But these diminutive fishes are among the most colorful of North American species. These darters are easy to catch in minnow seines and make a bright addition to any aquarium.

Sports and commercial fishermen have applied the perch's good name to a multitude of other kinds of fishes. It is hard to trace how or why some of these "perches" got their erroneous names. In other cases it is all too clear. Take the case of the "ocean perch."

For years, salt water fishermen from our northern ports caught, along with the cod and haddock, a great number of rose fish.

Now, the rose fish is tasty enough, but for some reason the public did not take to it. Then an enterprising soul had the idea of changing its name to "ocean perch." Since the rose fish went on the market with its new name it has become one of the most popular species from northern waters.

Science News Letter, July 20, 1957