

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **BEAM COMPASS** the size of a half-dollar can disgorge enough linen thread to scribe circles up to 12 feet in diameter, as well as curves and spirals. Measurements can be controlled to a fraction of an inch. The turret-shaped compass can be used with pencil, ballpen or metal scriber.

Science News Letter, July 27, 1957

⚙️ **AIR COOLER** can be used in offices, shops, cars, boats and homes. The lightweight, portable electric machine has twin blowers and a built-in ice cube compartment. It measures 14 inches in length, 8 inches wide and over 10 inches high, and weighs 11 pounds.

Science News Letter, July 27, 1957

⚙️ **TAX CALCULATOR** based on 1957 tax rates is designed to save time in figuring wage deductions for a payroll. Made of a rigid plastic vinyl sheet, the tax slide rule has both withholding and F.I.C.A. tax schedules. It is available in weekly and two semi-monthly models.

Science News Letter, July 27, 1957

⚙️ **FISH CALLER** shown in the photograph, is an underwriter buzzer for the fisherman consisting of a buzzer and a replaceable flashlight battery. The fish attrac-



tor is housed in a two-part case molded of a butyrate plastic. The buzzer operates when the two halves of the case are screwed together.

Science News Letter, July 27, 1957

⚙️ **COOKING AIDS** are small triangular pieces of aluminum that are said to get oven heat where it is needed in a hurry.

Easily stuck into meats or vegetables, the metal aids pinpoint heat. One aid per one-half pound of food is recommended.

Science News Letter, July 27, 1957

⚙️ **POCKET SLIDE VIEWER** fits into the palm of the hand. Powered by two AA batteries, the viewer has a precision-ground lens. Made of aluminum, the viewer gives a double-size image.

Science News Letter, July 27, 1957

⚙️ **POWDER DISPENSER** can be used in the garden for dusting powdered chemicals, fertilizers and insecticides. Designed for small, delicate plants and trees, the dispenser has a five-inch long stainless steel nozzle. The nozzle is attached to a five-inch high glass container.

Science News Letter, July 27, 1957

⚙️ **SAND-RESISTANT PAINT** especially suited to beach houses, also resists water and heat. Based on a plastic vinyl acetate resin, the paint can be applied by roller-brush or spray. Quick-drying and resistant to foaming, the paint sustained sand-blasting tests equivalent to a hurricane force of 140 miles per hour.

Science News Letter, July 27, 1957



Nature Ramblings



By BENITA TALL

► IF THERE were a J. Edgar Fido, chief of the canine bureau of investigation, he would have a natural identification system for finding a misbehaving dog or returning a lost one to his home.

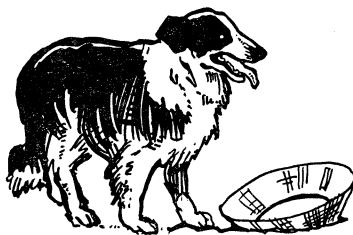
Just as a man has fingerprints that are one-of-a-kind, a dog has a nose print that is his and his alone.

No two pores of a dog's nose are alike. There is a difference in shape, number, sequence or distance apart, and so on. This means there is an infinite number of possible prints.

Hundreds of dogs of all ages, breeds and mixtures of breeds have been "nose-printed." Each print is different and, like a fingerprint, does not change during the dog's life.

Puppies can be nose-printed any time after birth. One method—the same used in maternity hospitals for footprinting babies—uses a special inkless pad and a sensitized noseprint card. The dog's nose is first touched with the pad, then pressed to the noseprint card. The contact immediately produces a permanent black print. The en-

Little Dog Lost



tire process takes just a few seconds, is painless and the dog is identified for life.

Tattooing is another system for identifying dogs. Owners of the so-called working hound breeds have been using it for many years. Beagles, foxhounds, setters, spaniels, sheep dogs—virtually every popular breed—have been successfully tattooed. This method provides an easily seen mark that identifies the dog and his owner.

For best results, pups should be tattooed when they are about two or three months old. Tattoo marks placed in the inside of the ear, on the flank, or on the dog's lip

will remain permanent and legible for the life of the dog. In contrast to the noseprint method, which requires comparing records of different prints, assigning the right print to the right dog, tracing the owner of the tattooed dog would be relatively simple.

Color and markings are not foolproof when it comes to identifying a lost, strayed or stolen dog. Someone else may think "Spot's" markings make him "Blackie." Spot might have his spots removed with the use of dyes, or "Blackie" might be turned into "Rusty" or "Spot."

The loss of a dog can mean a broken-hearted little child, who has lost a pal, or it can mean the loss of a companion and fellow worker to a sportsman or a rancher.

It would seem to be impossible to figure the value of a dog in dollars and cents. This is one other time when an ounce of prevention—in the shape of a dab of tattoo ink or a noseprint card—is worth a pound of cure.

Dog identification through color, tattooing and nose-printing is currently being used by the Canadian Kennel Club, reports the Gaines Dog Research Center of New York.

Science News Letter, July 27, 1957