

• New Machines and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE SERVICE, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 894. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **JET CHARGER** maintains a constant air cushion in pressure tanks. Designed to eliminate water-logging in water pumps, the charger has a butyrate plastic non-rusting body. It can be used with centrifugal, rotary, gear, deep and shallow well jet or turbine pumps.

Science News Letter, August 3, 1957

⚙️ **BOOK PHOTOCOPIER** has an exposer and printer in a single unit. A sponge rubber cushioned head adjusts to the thickness of any book. The machine is designed for copy work up to 8½ by 14 inches and will pick up print, signatures from ball-point or fountain pens, crayons, colored pencils and spirit duplications.

Science News Letter, August 3, 1957

⚙️ **OUTDOOR LIGHTS** for cold weather are 400-watt mercury lamps designed to withstand the shock of exposure to cold water and snow when lighted. Made in five models, the lamps are equipped with the regular mogul base. They can be used in open-type fixtures at gas stations, parking lots and backyards.

Science News Letter, August 3, 1957

⚙️ **INFLATABLE SPORTS CAR** for junior to buzz around in at the lake this



summer is made of a plastic vinyl film. Complete with a built-in horn noisemaker and simulated wheels, the float shown in the photograph is almost two feet long when blown up. It has a self-adjusting split tail.

Science News Letter, August 3, 1957

⚙️ **DUAL PURPOSE CABLE** can be used to transmit communications and to hoist at the same time. The wire rope has a center core of copper wire conductors imbedded in a fiber core that is "laid-up" in a steel wire rope. It is available in 11 rope diam-

eters from three-quarters of an inch to two inches.

Science News Letter, August 3, 1957

⚙️ **SHAVING ATTACHMENT** plugs into the wall outlet and changes alternating current into direct current. Said to increase the efficiency of AC/DC electric shavers, thereby giving a cleaner, faster shave, the device can be used with new or old electric razors.

Science News Letter, August 3, 1957

⚙️ **TINY RADIATION DETECTOR** is designed to be used as a home survey meter for emergency conditions. Weighing two ounces and measuring two by one and one-quarter by one inches, the detector is said to be weatherproof, fungusproof, shockproof and non-breakable. With no tubes or batteries, the inexpensive meter can be stored for use at any time.

Science News Letter, August 3, 1957

⚙️ **PORTABLE DRAWING BOARD** made of plastic measures 10 by 12 inches and can fit into a brief case. Molded of polystyrene, the board comes with two plastic triangles. Spring clips hold the paper and rubber cushions protect a desk-top. The portable board weighs less than eight ounces.

Science News Letter, August 3, 1957



Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

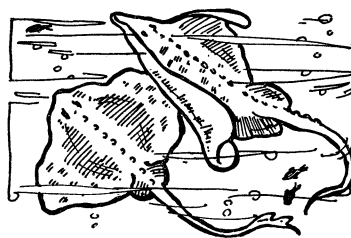
➤ YOU DO NOT have to be rich and retired to be a big game fisherman. The kids along the North Carolina coast go big game fishing every summer day, using equipment costing about 50 cents. Their catch is made up of skates and stingrays, and some of the rays weigh 75 pounds or more.

The "tackle" consists of about 100 feet of strong marlin line, a shark hook with a wire or chain leader and a hunk of old iron for a sinker. Bait is a piece of scrap fish usually donated by the local fish house.

Each young fisherman has his favorite dock for fishing. First he ties the free end of his line to a sturdy piling, then baits the hook and heaves the weighted end as far out as he can. When the bait has settled to the bottom, the slack is taken in and the line held tautly.

Usually it takes no more than 15 minutes

Little Men and Big Fish



for the bottom-browsing ray to find the bait. He makes his presence known first as he gently nuzzles the fish; the fisherman learns of this as the line alternately tightens and slackens in his hand.

Then it happens! The ray picks up the bait and slowly swims away with it. The boy gives a sharp jerk on the line and the fight is on. Nothing but the sturdy piling stops the ray on his first mighty rush. All

100 feet of line is stretched out, cutting through the water as the ray whips back and forth.

After a while the ray settles to the bottom where he digs in, his great flattened body acting as a suction cup. Now the young fisherman has to pull with all his might to take in line. He may gain a few feet, when all of a sudden the stingray makes another great rush. But with each rush the ray tires and the fisherman wins more line, until finally he has the ray at the dock.

At this point, the elated fisherman usually has to call for help, for 75 pounds of stingray is too much for a 12-year-old to lift onto the dock.

The young fisherman's great prize is the sharp, jagged barb which he cuts from the base of the stingray's tail. No Miami sportsman can be as proud of his mounted sailfish as is this kid with his stingray's "stinger"!

Science News Letter, August 3, 1957