

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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☛ **SHOWER CAP** made from a transparent film of a polyethylene plastic can be re-used or thrown away. The caps are waterproof and sufficiently resilient to fit almost any head or hairdo. They can substitute for damp-clothes carriers, book protectors and even lunch bags.

Science News Letter, October 4, 1958

☛ **POP-UP NOZZLE HEAD** for an underground lawn sprinkler system is non-clogging. The head gives off a spray that can be controlled and operated automatically. Each head covers a 24-foot circle at normal pressures. The head is designed to pop up when the faucet is turned on and drop down when shut off.

Science News Letter, October 4, 1958

☛ **MAP MEASURE** is a combination pencil, compass, magnifying glass and tracer that shows map mileage. The scale is designed to convert miles to inches and centimeters to kilometers. The travel aid comes in a leather case complete with operating instructions. It is imported from Germany.

Science News Letter, October 4, 1958

☛ **SPACE HELMET** for junior earth-bound explorers has goggles molded in. Radar antennas on the front of the goggles, as well as a disk inside a sphere, revolve.



The space helmet, shown in the photograph, also has elastic chin and head straps. It is made of a styrene plastic.

Science News Letter, October 4, 1958

☛ **SAFETY HANDLE** for rubber buckets is made of stainless steel. It is attached with stainless steel clips, becoming a free-swinging but permanent part of the bucket structure.

Designed for handling acids, corrosives and alkalis, the safety handle is available in both hard and soft rubber bucket styles.

Science News Letter, October 4, 1958

☛ **WORKBENCH TOOL** combines pliers with a wrench. It has a ten to one ratio jaw-to-handle leverage, one-ton gripping power, a geared transmission, automatic jaw lock and plastic handle covers. It can be used as a socket and angle wrench, clamp, vise, ratchet, wire or pipe wrench, and spring maker.

Science News Letter, October 4, 1958

☛ **ACRYLIC LEVEL** is described as virtually indestructible. The level is one and five-eighths inches in diameter. It can be pocket-carried or mounted on equipment through holes in its flange. Its accuracy is within 60 degrees of arc.

Science News Letter, October 4, 1958

☛ **CONTROL ENGINEER'S SLIDE RULE** gives magnitude ratio and phase response angle in one setting. The rule applies to transfer functions that are products of linear and exponential factors. Scales for direct conversion from decibels to actual magnitude and from angular frequency to frequency or period time are also provided.

Science News Letter, October 4, 1958



## Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

► "OH, GIVE me a home where the buffalo roam, where the deer and the antelope play . . ."

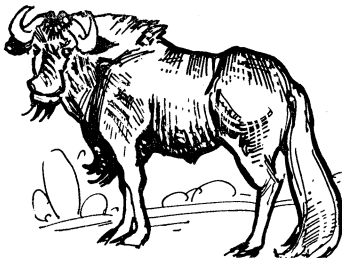
Where would such a home be? Any student of natural history could tell you that it certainly is not in the American West. In the first place, there are no buffaloes in America; in the second place, there are no antelopes either.

The American "buffalo" is actually a bison, distinguished, among other features, from true buffaloes by the hump over its shoulders. Our "antelope," the pronghorn, is in a completely different family from the true antelopes which have permanent, non-branched horns. The pronghorn sheds his many-pointed horns each year.

It is necessary to look elsewhere for the American "home on the range."

The combination of buffalo, deer and antelope is found in two places, Africa and Asia, so this narrows the field. In Africa,

### Home on the Veldt



deer are not found south of the Tropic of Cancer, ruling out that continent for practical purposes. Much farther south there are herds of antelope and the fierce Cape buffalo.

Asia meets the requirements. Here are several species of deer, the classic water buffalo, both wild and domesticated, and many antelopes. To pinpoint this "home," India fits the bill most closely, perhaps some wild stretch where jungle, mountain and plain come near one another.

Sticking to the hard facts of zoo-geography, it is necessary to choose India as the best bet for such a rigorously defined spot. But if it could not be the American West, it is somewhat a shame that it could not be the equatorial veldt area of Africa.

The rolling hills of East Africa teem with antelopes of all sizes and descriptions, from which a homesick westerner could reconstruct the western fauna. For the old bison herds, there are the shaggy, fierce-tempered gnus. Any of a number of antelopes could fill in for the pronghorn. Deer could be replaced by the fleet gazelles or the retiring waterbuck.

Our common American names "buffalo" and "antelope" were borrowed directly from the Old World animals by the settlers of the New World. They were on unfamiliar ground and were seeing unfamiliar life. The old names brought them something of home, of the familiar.

Is there a song, "home, home on the veldt?"

Science News Letter, October 4, 1958