

• New Machines and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 984. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⊗ **ROTARY LAWN MOWER SHARPENER** is part of a kit containing power drill, grinding wheel, wire brush, four-piece arbor set, and adjustable sharpening fixture. The latter enables other garden tools, such as hoes, trowels and spades, to be sharpened.

Science News Letter, April 25, 1959

⊗ **AUTOMOBILE SEAT BELTS** of woven, pre-stretched nylon come in 12 fade-proof colors to match new cars. The belts are designed to absorb an impact up to 5,000 pounds and are equipped with emergency escape buckles. They may be installed in less than 30 minutes.

Science News Letter, April 25, 1959

⊗ **BALL-POINT QUILL PENS** are made from real turkey quills averaging more than 12 inches in length. They are fitted with smooth-writing, silver-tip refills, and come with small pine bases to make complete desk sets.

Science News Letter, April 25, 1959

⊗ **SELF-POWERED SPRAY GUN** is easily held in one hand and sprays any liquid that can be thinned to proper consistency, including stains, lacquers, enamels and paints. It contains no compressors,



hoses, or electric wires, and is powered by a replaceable can of propellant gas that delivers a steady pressure. The spray gun, shown in the photograph, is intended for the hobbyist, handyman and homemaker.

Science News Letter, April 25, 1959

⊗ **CHAIN LINK FENCING** for parks, gardens, playing fields, animal enclosures,

etc., is galvanized wire, plastic coated in choice of six washable, fade-proof colors. The fencing resists rust and corrosion, and is impervious to chemicals and salt water spray.

Science News Letter, April 25, 1959

⊗ **SNAP-RING PLIER** for mechanics has reversible and replaceable points. For work on automatic transmissions, power brake mechanisms and many other jobs, the chrome-plated plier is available in two styles, one for internal and the other for external snap rings.

Science News Letter, April 25, 1959

⊗ **VACUUM-POWERED ASH TRAY** for cars or trucks snatches up cigarette butts, ashes, pipe tobacco and matches merely by tripping a trigger. It is said to extinguish burning material.

Science News Letter, April 25, 1959

⊗ **GOLF SCORER** looks and is worn like a wrist watch. It helps keep track of a golf score and the number of the hole being played. Numbers on the black-faced dial show up clearly through a magnifying glass lens. The casing is of gold-toned, tarnish-proof metal.

Science News Letter, April 25, 1959



Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

➤ FOR 24 YEARS there had been no deer hunting allowed in the 41,000-acre tract in central Florida called the Inverness Area. But studies by the Florida Game Commission had revealed the deer herd there was exceeding the size that the area could properly support.

If the excess animals were not taken by sportsmen, then they would succumb to malnutrition and disease. Therefore, the deer season was opened there for 1958.

On opening day, Nov. 15, the Game Commission unlocked four gates to the area, as the first of a projected series of controlled hunts to harvest the surplus deer. To the utter amazement of nearly everyone, 3,315 eager hunters poured into the area that first day, taking a known total of 440 legal bucks. The Game Commission had only anticipated a total kill of about 250 deer throughout the entire season.

The Inverness hunt ended the day it began for the 1958 season.

As the news hit the front pages of the

Too Many Deer



state, there was some hasty criticism—some to the effect that the herd was “wiped out.” However, sober analysis of the facts, gathered before and after the hunt, reveals that the only real cause for dismay from the big kill was that many sportsmen who missed that first day were denied a chance to hunt.

It was known at the beginning of the hunt that the Inverness deer herd stood at some 2,600 animals and that these deer were concentrated there twice as thickly as in any other known area of the state. Figuring the expected natural increase of the herd

through births, less the number killed in the hunt and by natural causes, this year's herd is expected to be close to 2,800 animals!

So rather than fewer deer, there will probably be even more deer in the 1959 hunting season—a circumstance which might be lamented, since the area is already overstocked with deer. Animals taken in the 1958 hunt averaged only 103 pounds, as compared with 116 pounds for the average deer of the nearby, well-hunted Ocala area.

There is a moral here: Just as there can be too many cattle for the pasturage, there can be too many deer in the woods for their optimum growth and survival. The only sensible thing to do in either case is to harvest the annual surplus.

Next hunting season there will be a “lottery” for hunters in the Inverness Area. Sportsmen will apply to hunt and their names will be drawn for permits at random, up to a limited number. This way, the season will be spread out. Let us hope, for the deer's sake, that the sportsmen have good hunting.

Science News Letter, April 25, 1959