

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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**TWO-BATTERY FLASHLIGHT** has a bright red, unbreakable plastic signal hood extending out over the lens and a powerful magnet in its large switch. The signal hood, available in three- and five-inch lengths, projects a warning glow for a half mile without obstructing the light beam. The magnet switch has a pull of 15 pounds and holds the flashlight fast to any steel surface.

Science News Letter, June 6, 1959

**LOW-FRICTION BOTTOM COATING** for racing and pleasure boats reduces friction or drag against water by three to five percent. Both the coating and a special primer beneath it may be applied by brush as received, without extensive sanding and polishing of the surface.

Science News Letter, June 6, 1959

**WRITE-ON LABELS** for outdoor use stick without moistening to any dry surface and withstand extremes of heat or cold. They come in three sizes and their surfaces are permanently protected against dirt and moisture.

Science News Letter, June 6, 1959

**PEG AND STICK GAME**, shown in the photograph, consists of a peg weighing less than a half ounce and a narrow lightweight stick, both made of durable polyethylene. The game is played by putting the peg on



the ground, striking it with the stick on one of its ends to catapult it into the air, and then striking it with the stick as you would hit a baseball. Instructions are included and variations may be devised.

Science News Letter, June 6, 1959

**ICE CREAM FREEZER** for back-yard ice cream making has a tub of polyethylene in a choice of aqua blue or white. The tub's bottom and turned-over carrying rim are of double thickness. The freezer can

make up to four quarts of ice cream at a time.

Science News Letter, June 6, 1959

**BIMETALLIC THERMOMETERS**, calibrated for an accuracy of plus or minus one percent over a range of minus 100 degrees Fahrenheit to plus 1,000 degrees, are made of stainless steel, including the welds. Heavy glass windows offer high resistance to breakage. The thermometers are available with either three-inch or five-inch diameter heads.

Science News Letter, June 6, 1959

**DOUBLE-ACTION SEESAW** teeters up and down like a conventional seesaw and spins around circularly on its axis. Designed primarily for children under ten years of age, it has self-leveling seats to prevent falling off. Made with tubular steel supports, double cross bar and safety handles, the seesaw has three balancing points to accommodate different sizes.

Science News Letter, June 6, 1959

**COOKING GUIDE** for aluminum-wrapped meats is in the form of a cardboard, grease-proof slide rule. Initial setting of the meat's weight, for any of the 15 cuts of beef, veal, lamb, pork and poultry, indicates times and temperatures for rare, medium or well-done stages.

Science News Letter, June 6, 1959



## Nature Ramblings



By BENITA TALL

CONSERVATION can begin at home right in your own back yard.

Most persons think of conservation with a big, impersonal capital "C"—not as including practices that an individual can put to use.

We are all familiar with the stories of the nation's dust bowls. Careless, wasteful farming and grazing methods have cost us tons of irreplaceable top soil. Unscientific forestry methods have also caused huge losses in timber resources and destroyed watersheds.

Yet, today we tend to think of dust bowls and denuded forests as things of the past. In our imaginations we see contoured and terraced fields covering acres of lands. Windbreaks extending for miles, tons of fertilizers, compost and mulches, extensive irrigation projects—all these seem an integral part of conservation.

### Back Yard Conservation



Conservation seems synonymous with large size.

This is definitely not true, however. Just about every conservation practice that can be used on 1,000 acres can be used on half an acre. As a result of using conservation you can produce more and better fruits, vegetables and flowers in a back yard that is both attractive and a pleasant place in which to work.

A pine tree windbreak makes a garden cosier for working in the early spring or late fall in addition to reducing water evaporation. Ground cover vines, Pachysandra and wintercreeper are but two of many, protect soil on steep banks from erosion in addition to growing on "difficult" ground such as under trees.

A strip of wood or suitable metal can end soil gullies caused by water pouring out an eaves gutter downspout. Garden waste, such as dead flowers, overripe vegetables, lawn clippings, makes a good compost with the addition of a few chemicals to promote decomposition. Mulches of hay, leaves, pine needles, or lawn clippings improve soil, check weeds and erosion and are generally "good conservation."

Conservation in the back yard can add to the fun of gardening as well as contribute to the community and the nation.

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