

New Machines and Gadgets

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TRANSISTOR RADIO is built into the frame of sunglasses. Designed for use at the beach or ball game, the radio is controlled by dials at the ends of the glasses' stem. It has three transistors plus one germanium diode powered by a mercury battery. Built-in earphone permits private listening.

Science News Letter, August 22, 1959

SLIDE PROJECTOR will show slides on the screen while the operator previews the next tray of slides on an illuminated editing panel at the back of the projector. The projector has a "push-pull" slide changing mechanism and is constructed of die-cast aluminum.

Science News Letter, August 22, 1959

PAINT BRUSH GUIDE protects window panes and makes painting window frames a neater and easier job. The retractable guard, which covers one side of the brush, can also protect surrounding surfaces when walls, trim and baseboards are painted.

Science News Letter, August 22, 1959

BOAT FOR CHILDREN, shown in the photograph, is made of rigid polyethylene and can be used in pond, back-yard pool or bay. The craft is five feet long, only eight pounds in weight, easy to operate, and re-



portedly unsinkable. A plastic sail can be added to convert it from a rowboat to a sailboat.

Science News Letter, August 22, 1959

WALKIE-TALKIE has a self-contained power supply and operates from an automobile cigarette lighter or any outlet in the home. Two-way radio communication reportedly can be maintained up to a range

of 20 miles and is not affected by buildings or trees. The portable nine-pound units can be operated without an examination or complicated license procedure by any U. S. citizen at least 18 years old.

Science News Letter, August 22, 1959

ALUMINUM SHELTER with a 20-by-20-foot roof is easily movable and can be used as a carport, cabana, barbecue shelter, boat house or beach pavilion. The light and durable structure is supported by four aluminum posts. Any type of decorative finish can be used on the underside of the roof.

Science News Letter, August 22, 1959

EGG SLICER will cut a hard-boiled egg into six equal portions. The egg is placed in a plastic cutting bowl and fine steel cutting wires slice it when the aluminum handles are squeezed together.

Science News Letter, August 22, 1959

COIN HOLDER for toll road drivers clips to the visor of the car. It holds quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies up to \$1.95, and has a place for pen or pencil. Two fingers can quickly insert or withdraw coins. With the visor folded back, the holder is out of sight.

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Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

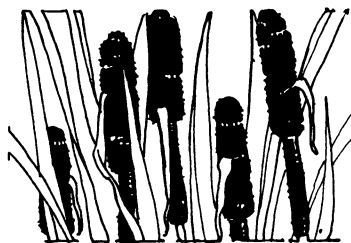
Swamps and Marshes

THE EVERGLADES is everything its romantic name implies: a solid stand of glades or grass extending ever in the distance. One Florida old-timer summed the 'Glades up as "miles and miles of miles and miles."

The true 'Glades stops, however, where the trees begin.

To the east are cypress and pine scrubs of the Atlantic coast. To the west, the Big Cypress swamp marks the border of the Everglades. To the south lie picturesque mangrove swamps, the area usually shown in movies and television as "the heart of the Everglades." Northward are the prairies leading into scrub country and, of course, huge Lake Okeechobee which is the natural source of water for the Everglades.

The 'Glades, then, is one vast marsh: an area covered for most or all of the year with water and having grass or grass-like plants as its dominant vegetation. On the other hand, a swamp is a watery area with trees as its dominant plant life. So the next time the movie hero is shown hacking a path for



his boat through a dense growth of trees, you will know he is in a swamp despite the ads about "Everglades adventures."

This raises an interesting point: according to this definition, the Everglades National Park covering thousands of acres of the southern tip of Florida is scarcely in the 'Glades at all!

The true Everglades extends from about the lower end of Okeechobee to about the Tamiami Trail, all mostly north of the park. While there are typical 'Glades re-

gions in the park, its most striking features are the great mangrove swamps and semi-tropical forests to be found there.

The shores that surround this marsh were probably the first on this continent known to white men, yet the inside of the Everglades was the last known. English mapmakers seem to have given the area its name—first River Glades, then as it appeared later, Ever Glades. The old Anglo-Saxon word "glaed", meaning shining or bright is an appropriate one for this open, green place. It is as good a name as the Indian: "Pahayokee" or Grassy Water.

The "Big Cypress" lying between the true Everglades and the Gulf coast likewise is often confused in the popular mind with the 'Glades.

As the name implies, this is a swamp with water-loving cypress the dominant tree. However, the "Big Cypress" is not a region of huge cypresses. In fact, the trees are in general rather scrubby affairs there. The "big" in Big Cypress comes from the vast extent of this great swamp.

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