

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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**FISH FLOAT** flashes when the fish nibbles. The float is made of durable plastic and is powered by a midget dry cell battery. The sensitivity of the light is adjustable. It can be used day or night and in fresh or salt water.

Science News Letter, September 26, 1959

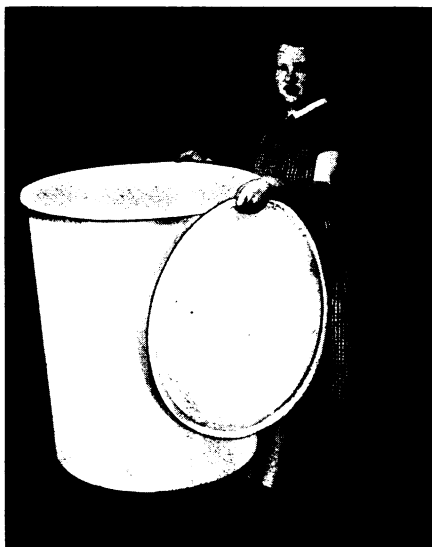
**OUTDOOR INFRARED HEATER** that looks like a fluorescent light tube can heat outdoor areas such as gas stations, subway platforms or drive-in restaurants. The heat element emits infrared radiation and so only heats objects in its path. People are warmed while the air remains cold. It is not damaged if touched by ice and reportedly can be used in the coldest of climates.

Science News Letter, September 26, 1959

**ELECTRONIC ORGAN** for the musically-minded do-it-yourselfers has all printed circuitry that makes assembly time about 40 hours. The organ has a horseshoe style console in walnut wood, preassembled keyboards and built-in speakers and amplifiers.

Science News Letter, September 26, 1959

**PLASTIC DRUMS** for industry weigh less than a sixth as much as steel drums of the same size. The 55-gallon polyethylene container, shown in the photograph, is resistant to all acids and chemicals and



is reportedly extremely durable. It might also serve for removing trash from the back yard of the home.

Science News Letter, September 26, 1959

**PAINT BRUSH CLEANER** spins the paint brush or roller in a bottle to remove all paint. You pull a string wound around the top of the bottle to spin the brush by

a yo-yo effect. After the brush has been spun clean in a solvent the spinner can whirl it dry. The completely mechanical device works for brushes not larger than four inches wide.

Science News Letter, September 26, 1959

**KITCHEN TOOL** picks, mixes, whips, turns, stirs and serves. The versatile aid is shaped like a large tweezer with wire to outline its flattened tips. Made of aluminum, the tool is reportedly easy to clean.

Science News Letter, September 26, 1959

**CONTINENTAL COFFEE MAKER** makes one cup at a time, using drip-grind coffee. This kind of coffee maker is used extensively in European cafes and hotels. One style in polished aluminum with a plastic handle and one in solid copper with a brass handle are available.

Science News Letter, September 26, 1959

**DISPOSABLE TOOTHBRUSHES** sealed in sanitary packages are charged with dentifrice and ready for use. The polyethylene brushes are designed for overnight guests, for hotel and motel "give-aways" and for hospital use. Made to be thrown away after one brushing, they reportedly remain sanitized for 18 months when kept in the packages.

Science News Letter, September 26, 1959



## Nature Ramblings



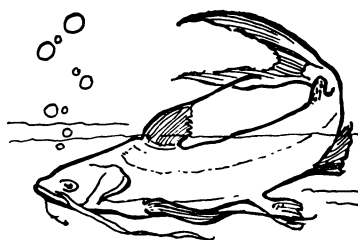
By HORACE LOFTIN

FISHING HAD been slow off the pier at Alligator Harbor, just a few small cats and pinfish to nibble away the bait. So when that big gaff topsail catfish (see illustration) snatched at the cut mullet, it almost tore the rod from the fisherman's hand. With the light spinning rig it took several minutes to bring the big catfish close to the dock.

It was a big one, close to two feet long. Then at the crucial moment, just as the fisherman tried to work the fish toward a net, something exploded from beside the dock. A long, black shadow rushed toward the hooked fish, struck it and was gone. A single swipe of a seven-foot shark and nothing was left of the catfish but the head dangling loosely from the hook.

There had always been a few small sharks out in the bay, and from time to time a larger one. But this big, voracious fellow was feeding right at the dock from which everyone fished, swam and boated. Along with the rash of shark scares from both coasts, it seemed the path of wisdom

### Shark Bait!



lay in not offering yourself as shark bait in that water.

This has been an unusual year for shark attacks. On the West Coast, at least two lives have been lost to maneaters in areas that had been thought to be perfectly safe. Other attacks have been reported from the Atlantic.

On the Florida Gulf coast recently, one young skin diver was savagely attacked. He was lucky: he escaped with his life, although it took 80 stitches to put him back in shape.

Later in the same general area, a diver

disappeared under water. Companions found only his mangled flippers and face mask on the bottom; they were menaced by sharks during the search.

Why the apparent increase in shark attacks in American waters? It has been suggested that a general warming of near-shore waters has brought the maneaters in closer. It is generally believed, for instance, that the Gulf Stream has moved in closer to shore along the mid-Atlantic. There has been a big increase in swordfish and marlin there, probably due to this shift in current; why not sharks, too?

Another suggestion has been made: more people are now swimming, fishing and boating in the ocean than ever before, thus increasing the likelihood of shark attack.

Actually, the chances of being attacked by a shark while at the beach are probably the same as those of being struck by lightning or getting food poisoning at a picnic: the chances are always with us, but seldom realized. Exercise reasonable caution, as you should in any event while in the ocean, and enjoy your stay at the beach.

Science News Letter, September 26, 1959