

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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**TUNE-UP KIT** for service station mechanics contains in one compact portable steel cabinet the following: cam-angle tachometer, combination power timing light, volt-amp tester, and cylinder compression testing unit. Equipped with a carrying handle, the kit is 14½ inches high, 16½ inches wide, 4 inches deep at the top and 8 inches deep at the bottom.

Science News Letter, February 27, 1960

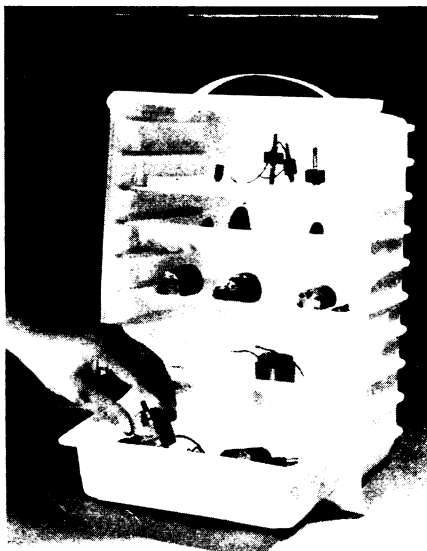
**LAWN SPRINKLER** of aluminum and plastic operates on turbine action, distributing water in a fine mist to a heavy rain over an area up to 2,500 square feet. The lightweight unbreakable sprinkler has no loose parts and fits any standard garden hose.

Science News Letter, February 27, 1960

**TENSION-IMPACT TESTER** for plastics and ceramics has a pendulum hammer with a two-jaw gripping device that holds the specimen during the downward swing. At the moment of impact, one part of the gripper is arrested by a stop. The hammer continues its swing with the other part of the gripper and the specimen is pulled apart. Resistance to the tensile-impact force is shown on a dial.

Science News Letter, February 27, 1960

**CARRYING CASE-STORAGE CABINET**, shown in the photograph, for protection of delicate electronic components is made of non-breakable polyethylene. The



front of the case is a transparent plastic sheet that slides up or down to give access to the drawer or the shelves. Trays accommodate large components as well as tiny and easily lost parts.

Science News Letter, February 27, 1960

**CAMP PANTRY** of aluminum weighs 25 pounds, is 12½ inches high, 21 inches wide and 14 inches deep. Two sides swing down on chain supports. On one side is mounted a two-burner LP gas stove. The

other sides serves as a cutting block. Five inside storage compartments contain utensils, plates and cups for six, plastic food savers, and an 18-piece aluminum cooking kit.

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**PARTY LIGHTS** consist of eight transparent white plastic globes, with different colored bulbs, attached to 25 feet of outdoor wire. The durable lights may be strung from any convenient support both indoors and outdoors to decorate patios, cook-outs, barbecues, lawn fetes, or costume parties.

Science News Letter, February 27, 1960

**AUTO BELT TENSION GAUGE** enables quick adjustment of belt tension to manufacturers' specifications, assuring maximum operating efficiency of a car's belt-operated accessories such as cooling fan, generator, power steering, and water pump. The 8½-inch gauge consists of an aluminum alloy body, a plunger operating against a coil spring, a dial, and arms that engage the belt.

Science News Letter, February 27, 1960

**POLYETHYLENE DISHPAN**, 14½ by 12 by 5⅞ inches, has an easy-lift handle rim. In one corner is a plastic flap, lying flush. A flip of the finger brings the flap forward, creating a safety silverware soak compartment.

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## Nature Ramblings



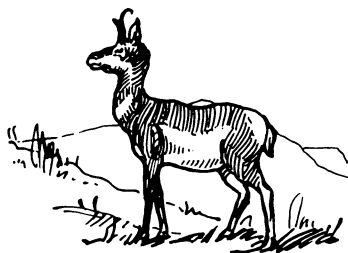
By HORACE LOFTIN

At Home on the Range

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

An animal geographer would have a hard time figuring out just where such a home might be if he were not familiar with the erroneous names we Americans use for our wildlife. There are no buffalo in the United States: those big beasts that made Buffalo Bill famous were bison. Likewise, we do not have antelope. The creature which inherited this misnomer is the pronghorn.

Strictly a North American mammal, the pronghorn is distinct from the antelopes of the Old World and is placed by zoologists in a family of its own. Its chief claim to rarity is its peculiar set of horns. True antelopes possess unbranched horns of permanent bone. Not so the pronghorn. As



his name implies, his horns are branched into two prongs. And unlike true antelopes, the horns are shed each year, in the manner of deer.

Pronghorns are social animals, often seen in bands ranging up to 100 or more individuals where they have been protected from over-hunting. Their chief defense is

their great speed. They can travel for long distances at 35 to 40 miles per hour.

They have actually been clocked at better than 60 miles per hour for short spurts. So aside from the hunter's rifle, healthy adults have few serious enemies on the open range.

Trouble with predators begins in the spring, when the young are born. The fawns, usually twins, remain hidden for about two weeks after birth. Their grayish brown coat is an excellent camouflage.

Under natural conditions, however, the amount of predation is closely in line with the surplus number of young pronghorns. Too many pronghorns would mean a weak and poorly fed herd. So by reducing excess numbers, predators may actually render a service to the well-being of the pronghorn herd. Within a month, the fawns are able to run behind their mothers.

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