

• 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 1056. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **CHILD'S AUTO SAFETY STRAP** anchors firmly to any car's front or back seat, and lets a youngster sit or stand without danger of falling if the car stops suddenly. Made of a neutral color webbing, the strap fastens to the car seat without the use of tools, and will fit any child from one to ten years of age.

• Science News Letter, 78:176 September 10, 1960

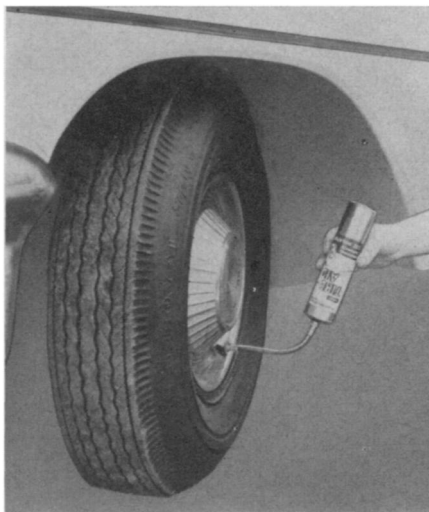
⚙️ **CLOVER LEAF PIE VENT** keeps juices inside pies. The aluminum pie vent lets off steam that would normally raise the top crust from the bottom crust, and spill the pie juices all over.

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⚙️ **COMBINED SCREWDRIVER-AWL** takes place of two tools. When starting a screw, awl is used to make depression for point, then retracts at touch of a button to reveal screwdriver blade. The handle is of red plastic, and the awl and screwdriver blade are nickel-finished. All internal parts are rust-proofed.

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⚙️ **TIRE INFLATOR-FIRE EXTINGUISHER**, shown in the photograph, inflates tires in seconds and dries wet ignition parts. The tire-aid chemical will extinguish gas, grease and electrical fires. It will not



evaporate and is not affected by high temperatures. It is non-explosive, non-inflammable, odorless and non-toxic.

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⚙️ **INDIAN TEEPEE** is a new creative and educational toy for children up to ten years of age. The tepee, which can be used indoors as well as out, has no pole and is

very durable and self-supporting. The 40-inch-high tent of bleached board is easy to assemble.

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⚙️ **GREASE-GUARD** is a 30-by-48-inch disposable carpet-like mat. It has ten layers of absorbent material laminated on top of a greaseproof backing. Placed over the spot where dripping occurs, it will soak up a lot of oil, grease, acid, brake fluid and anti-freeze.

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⚙️ **SOLAR ENGINE** runs constantly with radiation as the source of power. Needs only light to turn up to 2,000 revolutions per minute. The brighter the light the faster it turns. Known as a radiometer, it even runs under water. The device is made of glass in the shape of a globe and stands six inches high.

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⚙️ **HOME MOVIE EDITOR** enables one to see films as soon as received, cut out the bad shots, rearrange scenes in proper sequence, and splice films together on large reels for continuous shows. The user can inspect 8 mm color or black and white film in motion, and also view single frame stills.

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Nature Ramblings



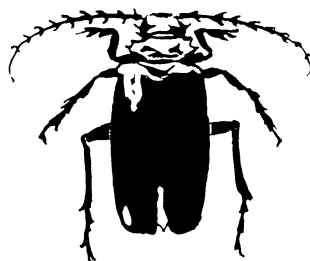
► **THEY CREEP** and crawl, hop and fly, dig and swim. They are found just about everywhere. We could not live without them. And if we are not careful, we cannot live with them! They outnumber us and surround us. What are they?

This sphinx's riddle is easy enough to answer. Anybody who has ever tried to spend the night in a Florida swamp, who has ever been host to an army of chiggers, or who has ever seen the multitudinous life in a plankton sample from the ocean knows. Just one group of creatures answers to this description: the insects and their allies, known together as the arthropods.

The term arthropod includes all the animals without backbones which have a hard, segmented body covering and jointed appendages. This brings together a numerous and fantastic assemblage of creatures including the insects, spiders, ticks, shrimps, crabs, centipedes, millipedes and a host of other types.

While we humans like to think that we and our backboneed, brainy relatives are far superior to anything else on earth, the

Animal Riddle



arthropods may argue the point.

You see, they have numbers on their side. One estimate asserts that of some 1,115,000 known species of animals on earth, 950,000 of them are arthropods! By way of contrast, there are only about 38,000 species of backboneed animals, including that two-legged one called *Homo sapiens*.

There is an understandable tendency for folks to call any of these 950,000 kinds of creatures by the easy term "bug." But there is pleasure and profit in looking a bit more

closely at them to recognize differences and call them by more precise names. It is easy to place a correct name on them, too. Just stop to take a look at a specimen:

How many pairs of legs does it have? Are there five or more pairs of legs? If there are, is the body worm-like or not? If worm-like, you have two possibilities: your specimen may be a centipede or a millipede. How many pairs of legs are there per segment? The centipedes have only one pair, the millipedes have two pairs on each body segment.

But suppose your "bug" with five or more pairs of legs on its body is not worm-like. Then it can be only one other thing: a crustacean, a group which includes the shrimps, crabs and many other aquatic forms.

If your specimen has fewer than five pairs of legs, there are again two possibilities: If there are four pairs of legs, it is an arachnid, a group which includes the spiders and ticks. If there are only three pairs of legs, then it must be an insect.—Horace Loftin.

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