

# • 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 1060. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⊗ **PRESIDENTIAL PENCIL SET** contains 33 pencils, each printed with the picture and vital statistics of a different president, plus a 34th pencil with a large question mark on it. After election, the 34th pencil will be up-dated with the picture and statistics of the new man in the White House. A 28-page booklet on the Presidency is also included in the boxed set.

• Science News Letter, 78:240 October 8, 1960

⊗ **PLASTIC-CLAD TAPE RULE**, made of steel, is yellow with black markings for quick reading. The tape rule's markings are protected by a plastic film not affected by most solvents, alkalis and acids.

• Science News Letter, 78:240 October 8, 1960

⊗ **VARIABLE-JET LAB BURNER** permits an operator to change flames by rotating the burner's head, on which there are five different burner tips. To give the glass-worker still another margin of control, the burner has two gas valves plus a single oxygen valve.

• Science News Letter, 78:240 October 8, 1960

⊗ **PUSH-BUTTON ZOOM CAMERA**, for 8mm motion pictures, shown in the photograph, zooms smoothly from wide angle to close-up and back with the press



of power buttons. In slow motion, when the film speed increases, the lens also zooms three times faster than normal.

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⊗ **LIBRARY LABEL HOLDER** features an angled face that may be turned down-

ward for high shelves and upward for low shelves so the label held can be easily read from normal eye level. Labels may be changed by inserting newly typed ones in the holders, which adhere, with the pressure of a finger tip, to shelves.

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⊗ **GAME TABLECLOTH** has nine game boards imprinted on it. The cloth is vinyl plastic 54 inches square. A 30-piece game kit and instructions are included.

• Science News Letter, 78:240 October 8, 1960

⊗ **GIANT-SIZE WINDSHIELD SCRAP-ER**, with an extra long handle, has a 5½-inch-wide scraping edge for ice and snow and a rubber squeegee for removing rain and mist. A saw-toothed edge on the plastic handle is designed to chip away thick ice without scratching the glass.

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⊗ **RAT RUNNER** chases the rodents from the buildings with ultrasonic waves. The small device broadcasts vibrations at a frequency that is not heard by the human ear, only by rats and mice. The nerve-shattering sound forces the rodents out of a building. During flight, they can be poisoned. The sound has no effect on household pets.

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## Nature Ramblings



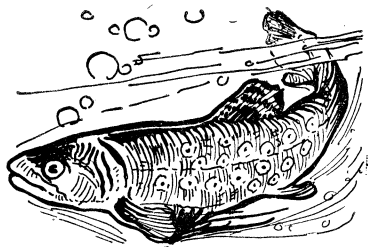
➤ **EVERY FISHERMAN KNOWS** what he means when he says he caught a trout. But it is not so certain that any other fisherman will know what he means. This is because there are trout and "trout."

In technical language, trout are members of the salmon family. Here you may run into your first difficulty. Is a salmon a trout? Well, certain members of the group are definitely tagged, such as the rainbow trout or the brook trout. But what about the humpbacked salmon? Why not humpbacked trout?

Moving away from the cold mountain "trout" streams to the warm waters of the South, you may be surprised to hear the natives brag about all the huge trout they caught last season. These so-called trout are really members of the large family of sunfishes, specifically the largemouth bass.

Calling these fine sport fish by the title "trout" is not some new invention of the Chamber of Commerce, by any means. William Bartram, the Quaker naturalist

### About Trout



who explored Florida in 1774, wrote a glowing account of the marvelous trout fishing to be found in the St. Johns River!

Then, moving on to salt water, there is a whole series of "trout" to be caught. There are spotted trout, silver trout, sand trout and many more. Most of these are species of weakfish or squeteagues, belonging to the croaker family.

There is a moral to this mix-up. The difficulties met with when regional names

are used for fishes (or other animals, for that matter) often make identification virtually impossible. Just which trout is being referred to?

Scientists began to resort to Latin names for all plants and animals in the 18th century in an effort to avoid the confusion of local names. The system works well for the experts. They seldom confuse *Cynoscion nebulosus* with *Salvelinus fontinalis* or *Micropterus salmoides*.

But Latin is a little too much to ask of most fishermen. The American Fisheries Society has recently issued a book giving a list of standardized common names for all of the common fresh and salt water fishes of North America.

These names (most of which are already in use) will be employed by fishery biologists, ichthyologists, and fish conservation experts uniformly throughout the nation.

Who knows? In a few years maybe even the fishermen may get their "trout" straight!

—HORACE LOFTIN

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