

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **AUTOMATIC PROJECTION SCREEN** for home use may be hung behind a cornice or recessed above a ceiling. Available in three sizes, the electrically operated screen may be stopped at any point when unrolling for conversion from square to oblong size for slide or motion picture viewing.

• Science News Letter, 78:350 November 26, 1960

⚙️ **ROUND FURNITURE CASTER** is free from jamming or clogging from dirt or hair because its ball bearings are totally enclosed. The new caster has a soft rubber non-marking tread for various types of floors or a hard rubber non-marking tread for carpeting. Available in copper, chrome or brass finishes, there are four casters to a set.

• Science News Letter, 78:350 November 26, 1960

⚙️ **WIRELESS TELEPHONE AMPLIFIER** frees hands of its user. When a call is received or placed, the telephone receiver is cradled on the device and the person can hear or talk up to ten or 20 feet away. The amplifier is transistorized and operates on a nine-volt battery. It requires no installation and will not add to telephone bills.

• Science News Letter, 78:350 November 26, 1960

⚙️ **MONEY CLIP**, shown in the photograph, has a pen knife blade on one side

and a nail file with a cleaner point on the other. Made of stainless steel, the clip is 2¼ inches by 1 when closed.

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⚙️ **ALL-WEATHER COMPACT HAT** for snow, rain or sun can be carried like a handbag when not worn. Made of vinyl

plastic, it is an umbrella-like hat with two plastic ribbons and a movable sleeve that adjusts it to the chin of the wearer. Affords all-season hair and face protection.

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⚙️ **HUNTING-FISHING BOAT** of fiberglass and mahogany is square-ended and weighs only 60 pounds. The cockpit's high combing and flat bottom makes the boat both dry and stable. The portable boat can be rowed, towed, paddled, sculled, adapted for sailing or powered by outboard motor.

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⚙️ **BABY BOTTLE HOLDER** holds the bottle in feeding or non-feeding (no drip) positions, leaving one hand free, while holding baby, to telephone, read, write, cook, or drink coffee. Serving as a third hand, the non-breakable plastic holder hangs on crib, play pen or car bed. The pink or blue holder can be washed in dishwasher.

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⚙️ **SUSPENDED CEILING SYSTEM** makes possible quick and easy finishing of any room in the house. The interlocking aluminum grid system can be used with five different panels, plus lighting fixtures. Immediate accessibility to hidden wiring, piping or ductwork is possible. Special locking tool is included with the system.

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Nature Ramblings



NATURALISTS in watch towers and aerial survey planes are now training their binoculars on the Federal Wildlife Refuge at Aransas, Texas, looking for stragglers from the world's last surviving flock of whooping cranes returning from their summer nesting quarters in Canada.

When the nation was young and wildlife abundant, there were thousands of whoopers. Their breeding grounds, now confined to the Wood Buffalo Park region around Canada's Great Slave Lake, then came as far south as Illinois and Iowa.

In those days, these big marsh dwellers came whooping southward along migration routes that spread from New England to Colorado and Idaho into winter quarters reaching from the Gulf States to central Mexico.

But they were corn stealers, and their large size, four feet tall with a wingspan of more than seven feet, made them an easy target for musket balls and arrows alike. In spite of protective measures begun

The Whoopers Return



in 1916, their numbers dwindled to 14 individuals by 1938, when an all-out effort to save them was initiated.

At the last full count in 1959, there were only 39 whooping cranes in existence, 33 wild and six in captivity.

These birds have become wary of man, and their loud, piercing, trumpeting call seems to echo the alarm of a species in danger of extinction. The whooper's cry can be heard a mile away, a projection feat

made possible by a 58-inch-long windpipe, about half of which is coiled away in the keel of the breastbone.

Conservation efforts aimed at protecting the big white birds take considerable time and money, and some persons may wonder whether preserving the whooping cranes is worth while.

Each year nature lovers and tourists visiting the winter refuge in Texas spend an estimated \$1,000,000 for the privilege of peering at the cranes through a telescope in a faraway tower. Using this yardstick, each bird has an annual value of nearly \$25,000.

As expanding industrial and agricultural developments make it more difficult for city dwellers to find wild things to look at, it seems that cranes, and all wildlife, are worth the cost of their protection. Future generations should be able to experience the human satisfactions that come from knowing the wilderness. —GLORIA BALL

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