

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **THREE-MANUAL ORGAN**, only 29 inches in depth, in do-it-yourself kit form can be built for home use by following step-by-step instructions. The organ contains 64 stops and couplers, 61-note manuals and 32-note pedal board, and has a full, rich concert-quality tone.

• Science News Letter, 78:416 December 17, 1960

⚙️ **EMERGENCY FLASHER LIGHT** has a suction cup that sticks tight to any smooth metallic surface. It has more than 100 safety uses—for autos, trailers, bikes, boats, etc. Powered by two flashlight batteries, a brilliant red light (flasher bulb) blinks a constant signal visible for 500 feet.

• Science News Letter, 78:416 December 17, 1960

⚙️ **COOK AND SERVE TOOLS** in a Lazy Susan holder can be used on kitchen counter-top, in the cabinet or on the dining table. The decorated handles of molded plastic stand up through washing in automatic dishwasher.

• Science News Letter, 78:416 December 17, 1960

⚙️ **OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS** of weather-resistant butyrate plastic add luster to displays during the day and provide light at night. Modern, multi-faceted globes, old-fashioned lanterns and bells and a humorous, double-faced gnome with a red lamp for a nose provide a choice of styles. The finishes of the lightweight, three-



dimensional decorations, shown in the photograph, will not chip or wear off.

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⚙️ **SURGICAL ADHESIVE TAPE** has unusual sticking ability but can be removed painlessly, even from hair. The non-irritat-

ing tape is available to the medical profession through surgical supply houses and wholesale druggists but is not yet on sale to the general public.

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⚙️ **GOLD COAST GAME** is a modern version of a game, called mancala, played in Africa for more than 3,000 years. The gameboard is of ebony plastic with gold-lined playing cups; there are 25 ruby and 25 white glass playing pieces. A game for two persons, it is said to be more fascinating than chess, more spirited than checkers.

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⚙️ **MULTI-PITCH PROPELLER** for outboard motors can be used in fresh or salt water. With it, the best pitch or blade angle for any load or boating activity can be dialed. It can be set low for power, for skiing and heavy loads, high for speed and economy, and extremely low for slow trolling.

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⚙️ **CLOSET DOOR SHELVES** to occupy space usually wasted may be built by any do-it-yourself handy-man or carpenter by following a set of simple, fully detailed plans. Plans for each unit on an average-sized closet door provide 22 lineal feet or more of shelves and come complete with material list, tool list and drawings.

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Nature Ramblings



► FOR THE FIRST TIME in United States history, there will be an open season on lesser sandhill cranes.

Shooting will be confined to the month of January (1961) and to the eastern tier of counties in New Mexico. Any hunter who ventures into the western part of the state may be in real trouble, for this is the home of the lesser sandhill's big brother, the greater sandhill crane—an illegal target.

The difference between *Grus canadensis canadensis*, the lesser crane, and *Grus canadensis tabida*, the greater crane, are so slight that even professional ornithologists are hard pressed to distinguish the two. Both are big gray birds with bare, rusty foreheads and black beaks and legs. Both have the same loud, defiant voice.

The main difference in the appearance of these two subspecies or races is their size. The greater crane averages about three and one-half feet tall and the lesser crane is about six inches shorter.

Dr. John W. Aldrich of the U. S. Depart-

Open Season



ment of Interior said the open season was prompted by farmers plagued by the sandhills' pilfering of grains along their migration routes.

The greater sandhill cranes migrate through Washington and Oregon to western New Mexico, California and Arizona, and from Michigan to Florida. They number only 2,700.

The lesser cranes start their southward trek from two far-flung points, Siberia and Canada's Baffin Island. They pass through the wheat areas during harvest time, take their fill, and meet on the Platte River in Nebraska for the noisiest conference of the year. Then, 150,000 to 250,000 strong, they journey on to eastern New Mexico, western Texas and Mexico, gorging themselves on shocks of sorghum.

The situation has become so serious that Canadian and United States officials conferred and decided a season must be opened either in this country or in Canada. The whooping crane, the biggest and rarest bird of all, spends its summers in Canada and would be in danger if shooting were allowed there.

—GLORIA BALL

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