

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **SNACK TRAY** can be attached easily to metal or wood patio, pool or lawn furniture with an aluminum clamp. Once mounted, the clamp remains stationary permitting removal and replacement of tray at will. The plastic tray is stain resistant and comes in turquoise with gold inlaid design.

• Science News Letter, 79:126 February 25, 1961

⚙️ **BALL-BEARING ROLLING PIN** in anodized aluminum is a high-style version of this basic kitchen tool. It is available in copper, gold or natural aluminum finish with contrasting chrome ends and handles.

• Science News Letter, 79:126 February 25, 1961

⚙️ **PLASTIC PLANTS AND TREES** "planted" in decorative containers remain evergreen and everblooming, requiring only occasional dusting to restore their freshness. The synthetic *Pittosporum* bushes, three feet high, and delicate blossoming Ming trees, available in three sizes, thrive in deep shadow as well as full sun.

• Science News Letter, 79:126 February 25, 1961

⚙️ **LAWN SPRINKLER** of plastic with palm length handle attaches to hose and puts more water into ground without waste. Its patented funnel-shaped holes compress the water stream and convert it into a gentle rain-like spray. The rust-proof peg on the handle can be set in the



ground for stationary sprinkling. The sprinkler, shown in the photograph, weighs less than six ounces and is not affected by alkaline water.

• Science News Letter, 79:126 February 25, 1961

⚙️ **LICENSE PLATE HOLDERS** are a nylon nut and bolt combination. Available in sets of four, the plastic holders are waterproof, self-locking, rust-free, resistant

to oil, grease and acid. They are said to unlock at any time as easily as when first applied.

• Science News Letter, 79:126 February 25, 1961

⚙️ **PLANETARIUM TEACHING INSTRUMENT** explains basic relationship of the sun, earth and moon and how these relationships cause night and day, length of day, seasons and other phases of the moon. The device is manually operated for demonstration and comes with an illustrated manual.

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⚙️ **ELECTRIC SINGING DEVICE** removes all hair, even hidden hair, to assure the cleanest poultry ever, in just one minute. Plug in, press switch, run instrument over fowl and hair is singed off safely.

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⚙️ **PRE-FABRICATED HOUSEBOAT** can be erected in about three hours by two persons, using standard tools, to transform a standard raft or pontoon float into a cabin-boat with running water, electric lights and sanitary facilities. It weighs 700 pounds when finished, complete with furnishings. A 26-foot pontoon float is buoyant enough to support the houseboat, a family of five, plus 800 pounds of luggage and supplies. An outboard motor of from 5 to 35 HP is used to power the boat.

• Science News Letter, 79:126 February 25, 1961



Nature Ramblings



► **WHETHER OR NOT** the legend that young George Washington felled an off-limits cherry tree is true, it is a fact that he had quite a green thumb in later years.

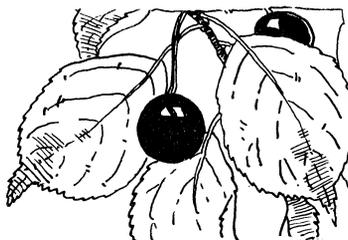
In Washington's diaries, some 10,000 words tell the story of the landscaping of Mount Vernon, and by coincidence, the first trees mentioned are cherry trees.

March, 1760—"21st. Grafted 40 Cherrys—viz: 12 Bullock Hearts—(a large black May Cherry); 18 very fine early May Cherry; 10 Carnation Cherry. And planted them as followeth . . ."

The last botanical entry, in November, 1788, began, "Friday, 31st. Finished pruning the Weeping Willows, and other Trees in the Serpentine walks front of the House. . ."

In between these two dates, Washington carefully recorded the planting and transplanting of trees and shrubs on the grounds of the Potomac estate. Some of the trees were moved to the lawns from the

Washington's Trees



"Wilderness," as Washington called his wild timber areas. Others were new varieties sent from far-flung places by friends, and in each case the planting location, quantity and source were meticulously recorded.

Although the landscaping project went on for 28 years, being interrupted for a time by the Revolution, it was never finished.

When Washington was inaugurated as

first President of the United States in 1789, his plans for Mount Vernon were still incomplete.

In 1924, however, Charles Sprague Sargent, the botanist in charge of restoring the grounds of the estate, perused the diaries and succeeded in making a number of changes Washington had wanted. One such change was to plant a hedge of English hawthorn.

Most of the trees planted by Washington are gone, and even some of the species introduced to Mount Vernon in his day have not reproduced themselves. In some cases, however, cuttings were taken from the original trees before they died and these second-generation trees are now full grown.

One of Washington's major plans, of course, was to see the building of a Federal City, a "City of Trees," on the banks of the Potomac. This much, at least, is now a reality.

—GLORIA BALL

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