

• New Ideas 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 1160. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **REUSABLE NYLON ENVELOPE** designed for transmitting confidential mail is provided with a metal slide fastener and tamper-proof steel seal. Waterproof and lightweight, the envelope, available in different sizes and colors, is mailable and may be printed to specifications.

• Science News Letter, 82:168 September 8, 1962

⚙️ **FURNITURE TOUCH-UP KIT** helps do a professional job of covering up scratches on furniture. The kit consists of bottles of mixing fluid, touch-up powder, mixing pan, brush and swabs. With a little experimenting, a perfect match of the furniture finish can be obtained.

• Science News Letter, 82:168 September 8, 1962

⚙️ **VIBRANT LIGHT SIGN** for both indoor and outdoor display produces colored effects, including twinkling stars, flashing lights, dancing flames and turning wheels, by plugging into an electrical outlet. Signs and messages can be quickly changed by inserting different slides available in standard or custom-designed patterns.

• Science News Letter, 82:168 September 8, 1962

⚙️ **FISH FINDER**, shown in the photograph, that helps fishermen find fish is a water temperature sensing device about the size of a big flashlight having a 60-foot two-



conductor wire. The wire, marked off in feet, indicates the water depth of the temperature where the desired species of fish are most likely to be. A table on the handle gives the temperatures most favorable to various kinds of fish.

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⚙️ **SECURITY SWITCH** for industrial

and military application protects electronic circuits from tampering. It provides security for critical circuits during tests, tactical airborne instruments or control. Each switch contains an individually matched and marked key and multi-tumbler lock which can be changed in the field. Master key operation can also be furnished.

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⚙️ **PORTABLE POSTAGE STAMP MACHINE** that can be held in the hand applies postage stamps to envelopes automatically. Useful in offices where no postage metering is used, the machine can be loaded with any size roll of U.S. postage stamps of any denomination. To use, the cap of the machine is pushed down and a stamp is automatically selected, cut free, moistened and pressed into place. It will apply 60 stamps per minute.

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⚙️ **INVISIBLE PEG BOARD HOOKS** hold housewares and tools flush against the board eliminating lost space above or below the hook. Made of tempered steel, the hooks are 1/8 inch wide and triangular in shape. A hanging clip is at the center and a prong on each side fits into 1/8-inch peg holes. They are especially useful for displaying ceramic art items.

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Nature Ramblings



Coyote

By WILLIAM E. SMALL

➤ **CAR-HOPPING** coyotes are spreading across the eastern states, traveling as "cute pups" with tourists and gaining their freedom shortly after they arrive. The clever animals adjust to the "wilds" of their new home.

The coyote is a close relative of the wolf, the fox and its domesticated cousin, the dog. It grows to a length of four feet from nose to tail.

Scientifically these creatures are referred to as *Canis latrans*, often called prairie wolf. Although its natural home is in the West, ranging from Alaska to Central America, the coyote has increased naturally in the Midwest and East with the cutting of the timber.

The diet consists of small rodents and birds, insects, carrion and such fruits as grapes, berries and melons. Coyotes occasionally raid the hen house or sheep pasture. Despite the general opinion that coyotes cause much damage, their control of harmful rodents has been shown to be more significant than any of the food they may steal. They are often blamed for kills made by their domesticated cousins.

Curiosity is a coyote trait. It watches from a distance, then silently moves out of sight and approaches an object from a different direction. It is faster than most dogs, will hunt with other coyotes and has been known to "play dead" to capture birds.

Mating begins at the age of two, normally in January or February. Young are born in the small dens, dug in a soft dirt bank, or in natural rock cavities. Five to ten blind, but be-furred, pups are born in April, May or June. The male feeds his mate until she can hunt on her own.

Early in the fall the half-grown pups go off on their own, searching for a home, often winding up in the car of a tourist heading east.

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