

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☛ **SAFETY MOTTO LUNCH KIT** will be a constant reminder to children to watch the lights and be careful when they cross the street. Fiberglass insulated, the kit keeps foods hot or cold and will hold a pint thermos bottle, sandwich, apple and a few other small items. It is also suitable for keeping baby's formula warm.

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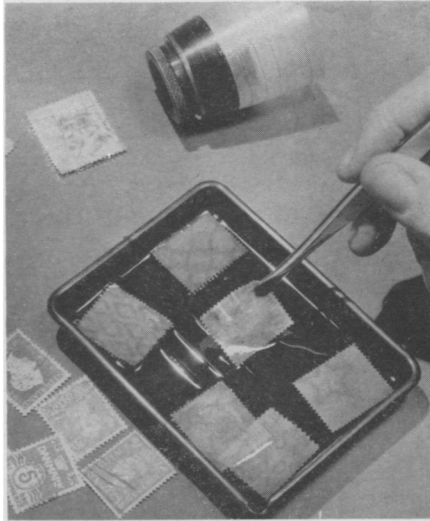
☛ **BOWLER'S THUMB RING** protects the thumb of the bowler and reduces swelling caused by frictional drag as the ball is thrown. Fitting over the thumb, it does not interfere with the grip but prevents the ball from rubbing directly against the thumb. The ring is lined with soft resilient cushioning material.

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☛ **PORTABLE REFRIGERATOR** that operates on either 12-volt automotive current or 110-volt household current is ideal for fishing, camping and house trailers, as well as for doctors' offices and hospitals. The 18-pound refrigerator has a sealed, maintenance-free cooling unit. A 12-foot and a 6-foot cord are supplied with each unit.

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☛ **WATERMARK DETECTOR TRAY**, shown in the photograph, for stamp collec-



tors is made of rigid black plastic. The small, impact-resistant trays will hold six stamps in one bath, conserving the detector fluid and speeding the detection process. Shallow sides permit close inspection of the watermarks. The trays are available in flat or ribbed bottom models.

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☛ **NEW HEARING AID** automatically adjusts itself to protect the wearer against sudden loud noises. The miniature four-transistor instrument, worn behind the ear, weighs less than half an ounce. It has a selector switch that provides the user with automatic control to reduce loud sounds to a comfortable level. It also has a telephone pick-up system that eliminates competing background noises.

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☛ **FLUORESCENT FISHING LINE** is visible to fishermen above water, yet nearly invisible to fish under water. The monofilament fishing line contains a built-in chemical that makes it glow with a soft blue color. It blends with the undersurface of the water and sky above, making it difficult for the fish to see. Strong but soft, it has outstanding knot strength and low stretch.

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☛ **BICYCLE RADIO** is a powerful two-transistor radio that attaches to the handlebars of a bicycle. Equipped with a two-inch speaker and a detachable rod antenna and earphone, a snap-on attachment permits easy removal. The battery is replaceable or rechargeable.

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Nature Ramblings



Ragweed

By WILLIAM E. SMALL

➤ **HAY FEVER** victims know that ragweed season mainly lasts from the middle of August to the end of September, with the peak snuffle period in the middle of September. Millions of Americans are sneezing from unleashed billions of microscopic grains of pollen from each plant.

The botanist who named ragweeds "Ambrosia" must not have known the dastardly role they play as the source of hay fever suffering, for the Greek word means "food of the gods," indicating the plant bestows immortality on the eater.

Four species, with several varieties, of the coarse, branching plant grow in the United States. Only five varieties are troublesome.

Growing in masses of hundreds or thousands in all of the continental United States and parts of Canada, ragweeds develop greenish-yellow spikes of flowers. Each of these spikes produces billions of pollen grains—the male element which fertilizes the seed.

Pollen grains are about one-fifth the diameter of a human hair, light and buoyant. Wind transportation is necessary, for the plant is so unattractive it could not depend upon insects for pollination.

Ragweed seeds can lie dormant for 20 years before germinating. The plant flourishes on beaches, prairies, pinelands, in cultivated fields and vacant city lots.

There are several remedies for those persons affected by pollen allergies, caused by other plants as well as Ambrosia. Aside from traveling abroad where the plants have not taken hold, there are injections and pills which give some relief from the painful sneezing and watery eyes. Antihistamines and cortisone-like hormones have played a big role.

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