

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **NEW TEACHING MACHINE** about the size of a portable typewriter has a separate answer attachment that allows programs to be used over and over. Made of plastic, the machine weighs about four pounds. Programs are available in 27 different subjects for all age levels. New programs for junior and senior high school levels include general science, modern mathematics, chemistry and algebra refresher courses.

• Science News Letter, 82:262 October 20, 1962

⚙️ **MICROSCOPE EYEPIECE ATTACHMENT**, especially suitable for school and general laboratory work, combines all eyepiece powers from 10X to 20X in a single assembly to provide powers up to 2000X. There is no need for eyepiece changing. Made of heavily plated and anodized metal, it fits .917-inch microscope tube.

• Science News Letter, 82:262 October 20, 1962

⚙️ **FREEZE WARNING DEVICE** safeguards the house against water freezing during absence of the occupants. The battery-powered device is placed in a position visible from the outside. If the heating system in the house should fail and the temperature drop below the set temperature, the warning light will flash on and off. Through a pre-arrangement, a call to the oil burner service man by an observer will prevent a freeze-up.

• Science News Letter, 82:262 October 20, 1962



⚙️ **ILLUMINATED HOUSE NUMBERS**, shown in the photograph, make the house easy to spot at night. Using existing doorbell wiring to power its electroluminescent lamp, the glare-free numbers are displayed in a weather-resistant, gold-colored plastic housing that also incorporates an automatic bell push. Four screws fasten the back-plate

to the house and two screws connect the wires to the electric terminals.

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⚙️ **POWER HAND TOOL** for industrial and non-industrial use and home hobbyists is a multiple-motion hand tool. The portable electric tool combines rotary and reciprocating action simultaneously. Versatile and capable of drilling, grinding, polishing, carving and other precision operations, it can be used on wood, leather, plastic and all types of metal.

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⚙️ **ALL-PLASTIC MORTAR PAN** is lightweight, durable, easy to clean and free from rust. Weighing only 4.6 pounds, about one-fourth the weight of a steel pan, it retains its shape even after hard usage. It will not develop sharp edges hazardous to workmen, nor dents or bumps to impede the smooth action of a trowel.

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⚙️ **POWER SNOW SHOVEL** will clear a 50-foot driveway of snow in 12 minutes. Powered by a three-horsepower winterized engine, the self-propelled shovel with adjustable deflector will toss more than one-half ton of snow per minute up to 18 feet from driveways and sidewalks. Easy to handle, it weighs only 115 pounds.

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## Nature Ramblings



U.S. Forest Service

### Horned Owl

► AS THE SUMMER birds go south, a new set of feathered boarders begins to move in from the north—hardy birds of the Arctic and Hudson's Bay country, retreating grudgingly before the severity of high-latitude winter, but scorning to fly any farther south than they must. The birds for which our northern states are "south" are almost as numerous and quite as interesting as those that shun the frost altogether and spend only their summers with us.

The great horned owl must be listed as belonging partially to this class and partly to the group of permanent inhabitants. For we always have some great horned owls, even in summer, but the ranks of horned-owldom are increased in winter by Canadian brethren come south to the "States" for a little mouse-hunting.

Fortunate is the farmer who is visited by a pair of those big, seldom-speaking, velvet-winged owls. Field mice, young rabbits and other destructive rodents will have their ranks notably thinned during such a sojourn, for the great horned owl has an appetite to fit his size, and he sates it mostly on rodent flesh. And since he usually selects a given tree or barn-corner for a roost, and returns to it faithfully day after day, ranging by night over a given "beat" in the fields, it is easy to see that rodent life is more perilous in the region around that roost.

Whoever wishes to convince himself of the benefits of having an owl boarder need only to pick up a few of the regurgitated "owl pellets" that accumulate under an owl roost and pull them apart. Very little will be found in these fragments of past feasts other than the skin and bones of mice and their kin.

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