

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⊗ **GOLF BALL MONOGRAMMER** makes it easy to find balls on the fairway. Inkless, the monogrammer uses color foil to engrave easy-to-read bright sharp initials permanently on each golf ball. Shaped like a nutcracker, the device imprints two or three initials by simply squeezing the handles. Two models, chrome and gold-plated, are available.

• Science News Letter, 86:144 August 29, 1964

⊗ **PADDED SHOULDER COVERING** for hunter, camper or hiker prevents raw, sore shoulders from carrying heavy packs and absorbs rifle shocks when hunting. Made of heavy urethane foam with a strong cloth protector, the cover is completely machine washable. The lightweight pad can be worn under or over a shirt, and will fit men, women or children.

• Science News Letter, 86:144 August 29, 1964

⊗ **FILLER-DISPENSER CAN** for chemical and petroleum industries or wherever flammable liquids are handled is strongly constructed of steel. Safe for filling and dispensing gasoline, oil, cleaning compounds, solvents or similar volatile liquids, it has a flexible metal spout that permits pouring or dispensing flammable liquid into small openings without spilling. The pouring spout and filler opening are protected with double mesh flame arresting screens. Its handle swings freely.

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⊗ **BUDGET BANK**, shown in photograph, helps children learn to save and manage money. Rectangular in shape, the bank is made of durable plastic with transparent slots on two sides for inserting coins. Inside are eight separate money trays to hold currency and coins for budgeting weekly expenses. A 28-page guide for parents is included with each unit.

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⊗ **AUTOMATIC PUMP CONTROL** can convert any non-submerged bilge pump into an automatic pump. Consisting of a brass air bell, which is placed in the bilge, a flexible air tube and switch mechanism, the pump control helps keep a boat dry automatically. As the water rises in the bilge, the pressure created in the air bell causes the switch to be tripped and the pump to go into action.

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⊗ **CONTOUR GAUGE** for wood- and metalworking, building construction, quality control and other uses instantly conforms to irregular surfaces, locks to each copied shape and measures it directly. One hundred sixty precision rods arranged side by side slide independently within a permanent-magnet holder. A single contact of the gauge forms an accurate full-length profile. Instructions are included.

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⊗ **THERMOMETER SPOON** helps the housewife maintain proper temperatures in food throughout cooking periods. Useful for preparing or serving soups and beverages, for canning, making jellies and for deep-fat frying, the spoon registers food temperatures up to 450 degrees Fahrenheit on a temperature dial on its hollow heat-resistant handle. The spoon, made of stainless steel, has a circular bowl of two-tablespoon capacity.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Dry Mouth Causes Bad Breath

► **MANY CASES** of bad breath are caused by dry mouths, a medical researcher says.

Commenting editorially in the *Medical Annals of the District of Columbia*, 33:387, 1964, Dr. Thomas Rees, an eye, ear, nose and throat specialist in Washington, said when saliva stops flowing in the mouth, bacteria grow and food particles decay. This turns the mouth into a small "cesspool."

The mouth becomes dry when tiny glands in the mucous membrane coating the entire surface of the mouth stop working. These glands, which normally seem to secrete saliva continuously, are important in lubricating and bathing the delicate membranes of the mouth and throat as well as the teeth.

Dr. Rees said 99% of the cases where saliva stops flowing are due to tension. A good way to keep saliva flowing, and therefore eliminate bad breath, he suggests, is to chew gum.

Common Plants Termed Dangerous

Dumb cane and philodendron, two common house plants known to cause irritation in the mouth and throat when eaten, could cause death unless prompt treatment is obtained.

Many people do not know such plants are poisonous, and that they are a particular threat to children who are likely to stick almost anything in their mouths, reported Shirley Baughman O'Leary, West Hyattsville, Md., in the *Archives of Environmental Health*, 9:216, 1964.

Most garden books, articles, catalogues and baby-care manuals do not mention poisonous plants other than poison ivy, the oak-sumac group and mushrooms.

Also, the urban background of many families has not conditioned such persons to the danger of eating both unknown and known-to-be poisonous plants.

Many poisonings result from erroneous beliefs held by people about plants. Some of these false beliefs are: heating and cooking destroy poison in plants, plants are all right to eat if animals eat them, or there are safe tests for poisonous plants.

Drug Helps Heal Injuries

An enzyme drug derived from papaya is helping football players recover from sprains, fractures, lacerations and ruptured muscles they receive during rugged games.

The drug reduces swelling that accompanies such injuries. Swelling is considered a major deterrent to the healing of bumps and bruises.

In a study at Tulane University, New Orleans, Dr. Paul Trickett, the school's director of athletic medicine, said the treatment relieved 92% of all symptoms of swelling, bruising and pain examined. One treated football player was even allowed to finish a game after being kicked in the face.

Dr. Trickett, who is also a vice president of the American College of Sports Medicine, reported his study in *Applied Therapeutics*, August, 1964.

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