

in his accounts, especially where he was depending on the testimony of others. Like everyone else of his time, he describes California (which means Lower California) as an island. He also speculates on the location of the fabulous El Dorado, which has never achieved actual location on a map.

The book gives a rather good description of the American buffalo or bison as "woolly, humpbacked cattle with two short horns twisted backward. . . They are very ugly and wild. The wool on their chests in front is long and curly. They make excellent rugs from their hides."

He also had a good word to say for the Indians of what is now the southwestern United States, speaking of them as "very intelligent and well-governed. They wear cotton clothing and antelope skins which are well decorated. As jewelry they wear turquoises."

Science News Letter, October 3, 1942

RESOURCES

Over-Zealous Scrap Drive Endangers British Relics

➤ ENTHUSIASTIC but ill-informed salvagers are endangering some of Britain's prized and irreplaceable relics of former times, and have already done away with an ancient slide lathe of the year 1820 because it was in the way.

This is the complaint of E. Lancaster Burne, president, and H. W. Dickinson, secretary of the Newcomen Society (*Nature*, Aug. 8).

They go on to say that the scrapping of an ancient iron works, particularly of two unique eighteenth-century tilt hammers, was averted only by prompt action.

The Smithsonian Institution in Washington has scrapped its large collection of guns and tanks of World War I, but it has not disposed of the Wright Airplane nor any of the machinery in its museum. Scientists hope that while the maximum of scrap is produced for the war effort, care will be taken to carefully preserve all objects of enduring scientific and engineering interest.

Science News Letter, October 3, 1942

Italian experimenters are attempting to obtain iron from the coastal sands of that country.

Wrapping machines which once put transparent covers on cigars now wrap small radio batteries, needed for the Army, with a vital protective covering.

• New Machines and Gadgets •

⊗ *A PUMP for extinguishing incendiary bomb fires, which has recently appeared, operates in a novel fashion. The upright handle is swung to and fro as the operator stands on the base of the pump. This is said to be less back-breaking than the up and down motion of other pumps. The new pump is made entirely of wood and fabric. Thus no critical materials are involved.*

Science News Letter, October 3, 1942

⊗ *SHINY BRASS buttons for soldiers and bellboys may be made by treating the articles with ferric sulfate just before the final burnishing. This substance, it is claimed, removes the scale and stain produced by the stamping and annealing operations. It is recommended also for cartridge cases which must be smooth.*

Science News Letter, October 3, 1942

⊗ *BOILER SCALE can be removed, it is claimed, with hydrochloric acid to which an "inhibitor" has been added. The inhibitor prevents the acid from attacking the metal without reducing its action on the scale. Boiler scale, being a poor conductor of heat, lowers the efficiency of the boiler so that more fuel is required to raise steam. It is the same stuff that forms on a long used kettle.*

Science News Letter, October 3, 1942

⊗ *DISPOSABLE TISSUES for industry are a new wrinkle. New wrinkle is right, for they are strongly creped and extra tough for removing dirt, oil and grease from machinery, a job usually done with cotton waste and old rags.*

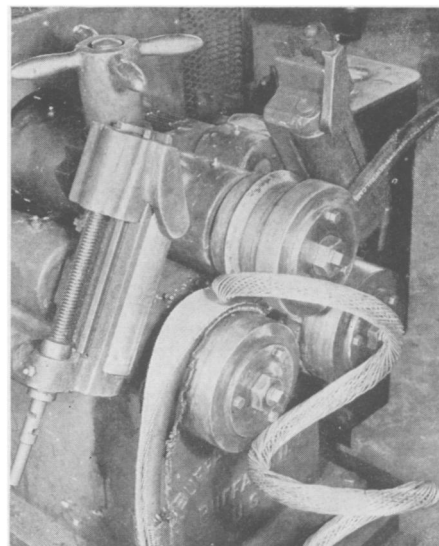
Science News Letter, October 3, 1942

⊗ *RADIO PROGRAMS you want to hear for a whole afternoon's or evening's entertainment will automatically be tuned in and out and the radio turned on and off at the proper times by a recently patented device.*

Science News Letter, October 3, 1942

⊗ *RUBBER INSULATION is saved from old cables by the machine shown in the illustration. This machine originally served an entirely different purpose, that of bending rods and pipes. It was adapted to its present purpose by a change in the rollers. The top roller carries a circular V-shaped cutter which slits and spreads the insulation so that it is peeled off and the wire is thrust off to one side. Previously the insulation was burned and only the copper was saved. Now, with a shortage of scrap rubber, both are saved.*

Science News Letter, October 3, 1942



⊗ *DRY ICE operates a newly invented target rifle in place of gunpowder. Since the ice evaporates completely to the inert gas carbon dioxide, there is no fouling of the gun, and enough crushed dry ice can be carried in the magazine of the 22 caliber rifle for 2,000 shots.*

Science News Letter, October 3, 1942

⊗ *FLICKERING FLUORESCENT lamps will no longer be the annoyance they have been if the lamp is provided with a new type of starter now available which cuts the flickering lamp out of the circuit. At that moment a red button on top of the starter snaps forward, and must be pushed back to reset the starter after the worn-out lamp has been removed from the fixture.*

Science News Letter, October 3, 1942

If you want more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin No. 124.

★ PROTECTION AGAINST GAS

A 35 MM FILMSLIDE for science Teachers, Doctors and Defense Groups who have been assigned the difficult task of educating the public regarding the practical aspects of Chemical Warfare. The work consists of 80 frames entirely self explanatory. The first 40 are especially for the layman and are intended to clarify some of the popular misconceptions of gas warfare. This is followed by 16 charts of the more common war gases, their properties, effects and first aid measures. The last part deals with gas mask drill, protective clothing and gas shelter.

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