

• New Machines and Gadgets •

☛ **BANANA FLAKES**, a recently developed product, was formerly shipped in tins from Brazil. The dehydrated bananas are now sent in bulk cartons to New York, where they are packed in paper cones.

Science News Letter, April 17, 1943

☛ **AN IMPROVED** individual package for ready-to-eat cereals also serves as a bowl. It is now being supplied to Army messes. After opening the perforated front panel of the handy package, the sealed wax paper bag inside is slit open and sugar and cream poured on.

Science News Letter, April 17, 1943

☛ **STEEL COILS** are laced into the rubber tread of a new type of airplane tire to prevent skidding during landings and take-offs on icy airport runways and in arctic regions. Many of the tires are now being used by the Air Forces.

Science News Letter, April 17, 1943

☛ **ALL-PAPER CARTONS** for a variety of products have been developed with a click top to be assembled and filled by hand in the absence of machinery. The cover is part of the carton, and can be easily flipped open, then closed again by slight pressure.

Science News Letter, April 17, 1943

☛ **SPONGE RUBBER gaskets** coated with natural or synthetic rubber by a special process is a new development being widely used in war equipment, such

as tanks and planes. Peacetime uses in the automobile and refrigerator industries are expected.

Science News Letter, April 17, 1943

☛ **"BOMB-SIGHT LEVELS"** to help make layouts for contour farming are being made by farm boys. A cheap wooden carpenter's level, a small mirror and scrap tin from a tobacco can are used. Front and rear peekholes are made of the tin, and a support to hold the mirror so that the spirit bulb may be seen when sighting through the peekholes.

Science News Letter, April 17, 1943

☛ **BIFOCALS** and other multifocal lenses may be made in less time and at less expense by a new process just patented, each lens being ground from a single piece of lens material. The lenses are partly finished by the manufacturer, who grinds the surfaces of different curvatures on the inside of the lenses. Several lenses are ground simultaneously. The prescription grinder has then only to grind the outside to the proper single curvature.

Science News Letter, April 17, 1943

☛ **TANK PUMPS** made of plastic and wood have been developed for home fire protection, but can also be used for spraying fruit trees, shrubs and flowers and for whitewashing.

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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 152.

AERONAUTICS

"All-Glass-House" Plane For Photographic Work

➤ **AN AIRPLANE** designed to be as nearly transparent as possible is the subject of patent 2,314,949, granted to R. W. Palmer of Whittier, Calif., and assigned to Vultee Aircraft, Inc. This plane is intended for use in photographic and observational work, in which maximum visibility in all directions is a prime necessity.

The fuselage consists of a skeleton framework of metal ribs, that crisscross to form a pattern of diagonally spaced square panels. Plexiglass or other safety transparent panes fill in these openings, making the craft virtually a flying glass house.

Science News Letter, April 17, 1943

NUTRITION

No Ration Points Needed for Wild Greens

➤ **IF THE FRESH** vegetables with which you eke out your ration points get too expensive for the budget, especially at this season before your Victory garden greens are ready for cutting, remember the wild greens that grow along roadsides and even, sometimes, on the front lawn. They furnish vitamins and minerals and will add to the variety of meals, an important point these days.

First of the wild greens to come are dandelions. Also available this season, and in fact at all seasons since it is an evergreen, is watercress. Check with your local health department about its safety, however, as in some localities the water it grows in might be polluted.

Besides these two greens, housewives may be able to serve, as a change from spinach and lettuce, stinging nettle, marsh marigold, dock, milkweed, chicory, wild onion, lamb's quarter, summer mustard, pokeweed, sorrel and purslane or pursley.

All members of the wild carrot family should be avoided. This includes Queen Anne's lace and other related plants with dissected, leafy foliage, having white or yellow umbrella-like flowering and possessing a strong odor when crushed. Stems and leaves of plants with woody stems should also be avoided.

Only the tender young leaves of plants should be selected for eating. By the time the plants are in flower their flavor will be too strong. The greens, like those you buy at the market, should be thoroughly washed and all imperfect parts discarded. Young crisp leaves are nice for salad, but these wild greens can also be cooked and served like spinach or chard and served with butter or a sauce.

Science News Letter, April 17, 1943



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