

# • New Machines, and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **TABLE TENNIS device**, for solo practice with a machine partner, has a net at one end of the table to catch the ball and drop it into a trough below. The ball then rolls into a device which shoots it, by vacuum-cleaner air-pressure, through a curved tube onto the table.

Science News Letter, July 8, 1950

⚙️ **GASOLINE TANKS** to fit into the waste fender area behind each rear wheel of the automobile make the customary gasoline tank space available to add to the baggage compartment. The simple idea, for which a patent is pending, does not change center of gravity or gasoline capacity.

Science News Letter, July 8, 1950

⚙️ **TRAILER COOLER**, electrically operated, is designed to circulate filtered, cool air directly down through a ceiling ventilator. The 90-pound device, complete with motor, blower, water-pump and accessories, is easily mounted on top of the trailer and no ducts are required for installation.

Science News Letter, July 8, 1950

⚙️ **VOLT-AMMETER** for the electrician is built to measure current without interrupting service. As shown in the picture,



this 12-ounce pocket instrument, in a plastic case, features two insulated split-core transformer probes which are opened by a plastic trigger to close around conductors.

Science News Letter, July 8, 1950

⚙️ **CLASSROOM LANTERN slide**, two-

by-two inch size, is made of a specially treated glass which can be written on by an ordinary pencil. Markings on it can be erased at will, making the slide usable over and over again.

Science News Letter, July 8, 1950

⚙️ **ELECTRIC HARPOON** for killing whales, developed in England and successfully used in the Antarctic during the past season, is attached to the vessel by a line which carries an electric current. This humane device kills almost instantly and saves time for the whalers.

Science News Letter, July 8, 1950

⚙️ **JUNIOR RECTIFIER**, low-cost instrument to deliver six-volt direct current from the ordinary 115-volt alternating current line, utilizes new heavy-duty selenium rectifiers plus accessories such as voltmeter and ammeter. It is designed for testing and demonstrating low-voltage devices.

Science News Letter, July 8, 1950

⚙️ **CANASTA SCORE** makes the progress of the game easy to keep by advancing pegs in holes opposite each side of the score values. Adding is done automatically on this durable plastic device, and the score is always visible to all players.

Science News Letter, July 8, 1950

## Do You Know?

Ground corn cobs make an excellent material for garden mulch.

A pound of *earthworms* contains all the way from 120 night-crawlers known as glow worms to about 900 garden worms.

The *chigger*, a little red speck of a bug with a big bite, is really a mite and belongs to the same family as spiders, ticks and scorpions; it is often called the red spider.

Following the gigantic eruption of the *volcano* Krakatoa in Java in 1883, resulting dust in the atmosphere caused gorgeous sunsets as far away as England for months afterward.

The Dionne Canadian *quintuplets*, born in 1934, and the Diligenti set of five, born in Argentina in 1943, are the only two known cases of quintuplets who survived infancy.

Many names of *stars* are Arabic; this is because during the so-called dark ages in Europe, the Arabs cultivated a knowledge of the heavens and translated former Greek names into their language.

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