

• New Machines and Gadgets •

For addresses where you can get more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N ST., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 663. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **ACETATE INKS** for writing on plastics have non-fading qualities in either opaque- or transparent-color varieties. Both permanent and "removable" inks are available. The inks work in ruling pens, lettering pens, brushes and airbrushes, and can be used to label plastic price tags and to identify photographic negatives.

Science News Letter, February 28, 1953

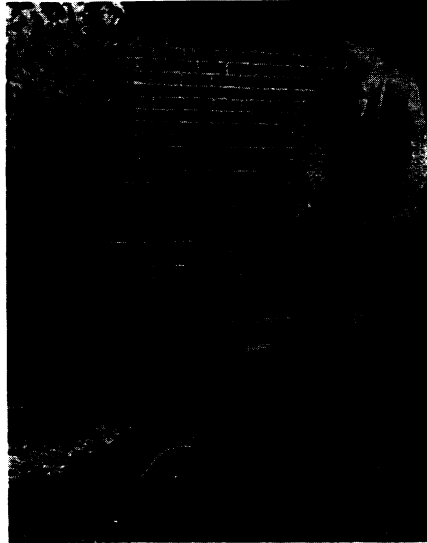
⚙️ **"STRETCHLESS" CLOTHESLINE** has a synthetic-yarn core covered with braided cotton. The line can be strung tautly and is said not to stretch more than two percent when fully loaded with wet clothes.

Science News Letter, February 28, 1953

⚙️ **FILM DEVELOPING tank** for amateur photographers features a "self-loading" reel that reduces jumble in the darkroom. The reel flanges can be twisted through a small angle. When film has been started into the grooves, the back-and-forth twisting motion threads the film automatically onto the reel. The tank accommodates all roll film sizes from 35mm to 116mm.

Science News Letter, February 28, 1953

⚙️ **GARDEN TILLER** for the home is powered by a gasoline engine and tills earth up to six inches deep in foot-wide strips, making an aerated, level, spongy seedbed that needs no hard spadework. A rotary snow plow attachment clears heavy or light



snow from sidewalks and driveways, throwing it 15 feet from the cleared path. The equipment is shown in the photograph.

Science News Letter, February 28, 1953

⚙️ **IRON-SUPPLYING COMPOUND** for citrus trees re-greens, stimulates growth and improves the fruit in a matter of months if the trees are "sick" because of an iron deficiency of the soil. The chemical now is

being used commercially on citrus trees, avocados and gladioli, and is being tried experimentally on some vegetables, flowers, lawns and golf greens.

Science News Letter, February 28, 1953

⚙️ **ELECTRIC TRAVEL iron** weighs only one and a half pounds and has a "dial-the-fabric" heat control. Designed for both right- and left-handed persons, the iron's handle folds down when the iron is not in use, allowing the iron to slip into a small, neat carrying case.

Science News Letter, February 28, 1953

⚙️ **AIR CONDITIONER** for the home cools six- to eight-room houses equipped with forced-air heating systems. Usually placed near the furnace, the device is attached to the existing ductwork and is thermostatically controlled. Soon to be put on the market, the unit also dehumidifies and filters the air.

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⚙️ **SPRAY FOR mops and dust cloths** helps the housewife finish her dusting chores in short order. The treated mop or cloth is said to pick up dust better than untreated mops or cloths, and to convert the dust into heavy lint particles that can be shaken off easily and neatly into a newspaper.

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• Nature Ramblings •

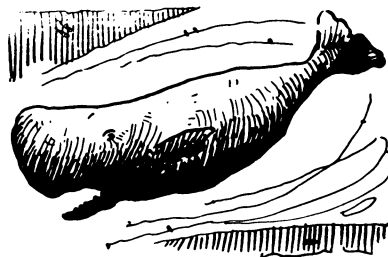
➤ **THOUSANDS OF** gray whales are moving along the California coast in their annual winter migration to breeding grounds in Lower California bays, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently reported.

The gray whales, which grow to an average length of 40 feet, travel close to shore during the migration from the North Pacific. Observers on the beach take a whale "census" by counting the oceanic mammals as they come to the surface to breathe.

Whalers used to slaughter the gray whales by the hundreds in their confined calving areas in Lower California bays, so that they were almost threatened with extinction. Now the whales are protected by law, and they have increased their numbers tremendously.

The slate-colored gray whale is one of the smallest whales. The blue or sulfur-bottom whale reaches a maximum length of 106 feet and weight of over 100 tons.

Whales



Whales are mammals with a fish-like form, and like other mammals, breathe air and must hold their breath when below the surface of the water. They must spend, therefore, much time at the surface, where they may be counted.

Dr. Raymond M. Gilmore, one of the country's few experts on whales and whal-

ing, recently took up his Fish and Wildlife Service post at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, Calif., in partial fulfillment of the United States' responsibilities as a member of the International Whaling Convention for the conservation of whales.

The once great American whaling industry—100 years ago over 700 whaling ships involving an investment of \$40,000,000 were engaged in the business—is temporarily dormant because of a lack of demand for the products. The business may be revived because the flesh of whales is similar to beef in flavor and texture, and is extensively used for food in Japan, as well as in several European countries, and has recently been introduced in the United States. It was once estimated that one whale could produce as much meat as a herd of 100 cattle.

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