

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **TRANSISTOR PHONOGRAPH** is truly portable, operating on four self-contained flashlight batteries instead of depending on exterior power sources as earlier "portables" did. The new record player is the first in which tiny transistors replace all vacuum tubes. Surprisingly small and compact, the phonograph is promised to stores by early fall.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1955

⚙️ **PORTABLE IRRIGATOR** has glass-cloth and plastic construction to make it strong, light and flexible. The new watering system, which can be moved about easily, carries water to farmers' crops without ditches or expensive metal pipes.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1955

⚙️ **CONTOURED SCRAPER** aids do-it-yourself addicts in preparing carved moldings, picture frames and furniture for refinishing. The new scraper has a hand-fitting handle and six interchangeable steel blades, each shaped for removing paint, lacquer or varnish from many difficult places.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1955

⚙️ **HIGHWAY FLARE**, such as those used by truck drivers, has been designed so that it fits compactly into a passenger car's glove compartment. Useful when your car



stalls or must be repaired at the side of the road, the warning device consists of a flag and two red headlight reflectors on a small stand, as shown in the photograph.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1955

⚙️ **HAND-LESS WATCH** has a small window in which the correct time may be

read directly, without need of hour and minute hands. Numbers indicating the time glide into a small opening in the metal cover of the watch face. Distribution is expected in September.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1955

⚙️ **SKATE WHEELS**, made of a composition based on man-made rubber, give better traction, preventing slips and skids even when the rink floor is not powdered. The new wheels reduce rolling noise 75%, and may be bought as replacement wheels or as standard equipment on several new lines of skates.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1955

⚙️ **UNUSUAL GLASS** exteriors for buildings will soon be available through use of new glass panels in custom colors and textures specified by the building's architect. Trade marks and insignia can be incorporated in the panels. During manufacture, a heat process is used to strengthen the glass and to fuse permanent ceramic color into it.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1955

⚙️ **"AUTOMATIC" CAMERA**, for 3-D photography, boasts a single window that is a range-finder and view-finder combined. A bubble leveler shows when the camera is even. This aluminum-cased camera links shutter and diaphragm so that when the photographer chooses one, the other is automatically specified by the exposure dial.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1955

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7-30-5

## Do You Know?

Modern machines can plant 1,000 seedling trees in an hour.

Fighting planes of the United States military services were refueled in the air on an average of every 3½ minutes during 1954.

Scientists are developing strains of corn better able to resist one of this crop's worst enemies, the European corn borer.

Human cancer cells cultured in laboratory flasks have been destroyed by serum from a horse.

Over most of the United States during August and September, the most common cause of hay fever will be the pollen of either giant or short ragweed.

More than 2,250,000 acres in 16 states were treated by aircraft in 1954 in Federal-State cooperative programs for control of agriculture pests.