

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **HEAD MAINTENANCE KIT** is designed for tape recorder owners. The kit contains a cleaner and a lubricant, each in a two-ounce bottle, as well as special brush applicators and instrument manual.

Science News Letter, October 20, 1956

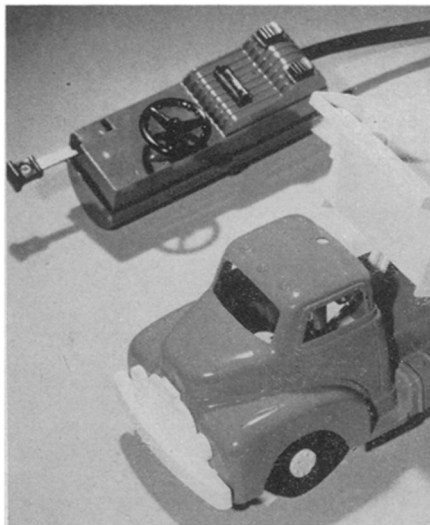
⚙️ **INTERCOM KIT** has the makings for a two-way communication system for home or office. Complete with all tubes, 50-foot cable, solder, wire and instructions, the intercom, when completed, operates on 110-120 volts AC or DC. It has a master station and a remote station.

Science News Letter, October 20, 1956

⚙️ **HEAVY DUTY SAW** for the home workshop is a nine-inch tilting arbor circular saw. It can cut to a depth of two and three-quarter inches. The saw also features a guarded safety switch that can be locked and a raised tilt scale. It is powered by a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -horsepower motor.

Science News Letter, October 20, 1956

⚙️ **REMOTE CONTROL TOY**, shown in the photograph, hauls loads many times its own weight. The truck body is molded of an acetate plastic on a metal base. Powered by flashlight batteries from a separate con-



trol box, the truck can be made to travel forward or in reverse. A wheel and plunger remotely control steering and dumping.

Science News Letter, October 20, 1956

⚙️ **SELF-FILLING PEN** operates automatically by use of a capillary unit. The pen is filled by removing the barrel top and

dipping the exposed inner cell into the ink bottle. It has no filling lever, tube, ink sac or cartridge. One ten-second filling will last for six hours of steady writing.

Science News Letter, October 20, 1956

⚙️ **MAGNETIZED ASHTRAY** clings to automobile interiors, machinery or any metal surface. It automatically snuffs out the cigarette when the burning end reaches the tray's mouth. Available in four colors, the tray is molded from a plastic phenolic compound.

Science News Letter, October 20, 1956

⚙️ **COLLAPSIBLE TANKS** for storing liquids are made of rubberized nylon. One of the 15,000-gallon tanks folds into a package eight feet long by two and one-half feet in diameter when empty. They expand to 45 feet by 11 feet by six feet when filled.

Science News Letter, October 20, 1956

⚙️ **RUBBER PAINT** adheres to metal, wood, plastic and concrete. Applicable by brush or spray, the paint dries in a continuous rubber film that is waterproof, as well as unaffected by acids, alkalis or fungus. It can be used to paint anything from oil-treated shingles to steel boat hulls.

Science News Letter, October 20, 1956



## Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

➤ EVERY SO OFTEN someone opens up the old argument that the animals chosen as symbols of the United States, the bison and the bald eagle, are hardly representative.

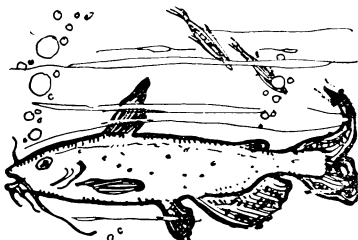
The bison, they say, is kept alive at Government expense, and so is a poor symbol for a nation of free enterprise. Likewise, they point out that the bald eagle is a rapacious creature and far from illustrating the peaceful nature of the United States.

Among the earliest advocates for a different animal symbol was Ben Franklin, who suggested the turkey in place of the eagle. Perhaps the time has come to suggest another creature.

Consider the catfish.

What furred, feathered or finned animal has a better background for the job? Catfish species are native to nearly all of the United States east of the Rockies and have been successfully naturalized in states on the Pacific.

### The Great American Catfish



As Americans enjoy thinking of themselves, catfish are content to tend to their own business in peace; but when someone tries to make them do what they do not want to do, then look out! Sharp, sometimes venomous spines are brought into action to teach the meddler a good lesson.

Just as America is made up of a multitude of people, big and small, so is the catfish population. There is an abundance of

species, ranging from the "mad Tom" of a couple of inches length to the great blue catfish, which may weigh some 125 pounds.

Furthermore, the catfish is a home-loving creature who shares the housework and the baby-sitting with his wife. Catfishes make their nests in sheltered spots, male and female joining in the building. Both stay at the nest during incubation, fanning the eggs constantly for proper aeration.

When the young hatch out, both keep watch until the young fish can care for themselves.

Finally, the catfish makes a wonderful contribution to the American way of life, fried catfish. The American who has not yet tried fried catfish has missed part of his great heritage.

Pere Marquette saw a catfish in the Mississippi during the first day of his immortal voyage on that river, and he devoted more space to it in his diary than he did to the great stream itself. Mark Twain also wrote of the wonders of the catfish.

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