

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **URANIUM DETECTOR**, a gun-type scintillation survey meter, can be used for oil and uranium prospecting. It is described as having been built for the Government for aerial, mobile and foot prospecting. It is said to have extremely high gamma sensitivity, a short resolving time and a high counting rate.

Science News Letter, March 23, 1957

⚙️ **BIT HOLDER** attaches to the cord of an electric drill. Injection molded of rubber, it can hold 13 bits from one-sixteenth of an inch through one-quarter of an inch. It is primarily designed for use on the cord of a quarter inch electric drill.

Science News Letter, March 23, 1957

⚙️ **CORRUGATED ROOFING MATERIAL**, a British development, is described as adaptable to tropical, arctic, equatorial and temperate climates. The roofing is made from a formula that includes asbestos and bitumen. It is fireproof and available in a variety of colors.

Science News Letter, March 23, 1957

⚙️ **CONVERSATION BOOSTER** increases the acoustic output of your telephone by as much as 49 decibels. It clips onto the receiver, and it is designed to help the hard of hearing and improve connections. Housed



in a butyrate plastic case, the aid has a volume control for adjusting the level of audibility. It can be turned off when not in use.

Science News Letter, March 23, 1957

⚙️ **SLIDE PROJECTOR** for two by two slides is designed for industrial and educa-

tional purposes. Completely automatic, a 500-watt illumination covers the slide. The projector can be turned on and off from a remote position. An automatic timer will operate at any interval up to 60 seconds.

Science News Letter, March 23, 1957

⚙️ **ADVERTISING DISKS** for use on cars or small trucks appear stationary while the vehicle is in motion. Designed like big hub caps, the disks are waterproof and are suitable for painting or silk screening. No wires or braces are needed to hold them in place.

Science News Letter, March 23, 1957

⚙️ **BINOCULAR CASE** is quick-opening. Made for hunters, vacationers and nature students, the calfskin case is zippered on three sides. When unzipped, the case front drops open and makes the binoculars available for immediate use.

Science News Letter, March 23, 1957

⚙️ **MICROFILM CAMERA** for the purpose of simplifying microfilm copying is designed for reference library use. Made in three parts: the new copying apparatus has a base which is also the book holder, the metal column with a movable cross arm, and the camera.

Science News Letter, March 23, 1957



## Nature Ramblings



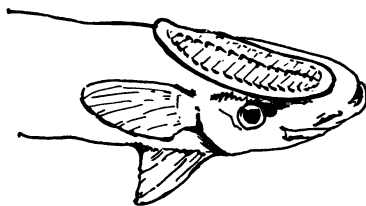
By HORACE LOFTIN

► WHILE ALMOST everything else is happy to stay as far away as possible from a shark, there is one fish who is such a close companion that a shark could not lose him if he wanted to.

This fish with the peculiar taste in friends is the remora, or shark-sucker. In countless years of evolution the back fins (dorsal fins) of the remora have become changed into a sucking disk which is located on his head. With this sucker the remora attaches himself to his usual partner, the shark, or to other large fish, porpoises, turtles and even ships, to go along for a free ride.

The shark-sucker tags along with his shark friends for leftovers from their bloody feasts as well as for effortless transportation. When a shark feeds, the remora breaks

### Companion of the Shark



loose to forage for himself among the crumbs, hopping back aboard when the meal is over.

The remora's sucking disk is so powerful that, once attached, it is almost impossible to pull the fish from a surface. Many native people take advantage of this by using the remora as a fishing ally. They tie a line to the fish's tail and throw it overboard

near the prey, usually a turtle. Once overboard, the remora swims straight to the turtle, attaching to its back, and the fishermen then pull both remora and turtle back to the boat by the line.

A fish with the odd habits and apparatus of the remora is bound to excite the imagination of those who see it, giving birth to legends and fables about it. People of the Middle Ages thought that the remora could slow down or halt completely the progress of sailing vessels by attaching to them. In fact, the scientific name of the remora, *Echeneis*, is from a Greek word meaning "holding back."

So long as the sailing is fair, the remora stays with his shark friend. But if the shark is caught and pulled out of water, the remora releases his sucker hold and swims away to hunt a luckier associate.

Science News Letter, March 23, 1957