

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **SOLDERING ATTACHMENT** can be mounted on all popular models of electric soldering guns. A trigger feeds solder from a spool in the attachment through a guide tube to the tip of the gun so that solder is always available. The attachment is designed for one hand operation.

Science News Letter, April 20, 1957

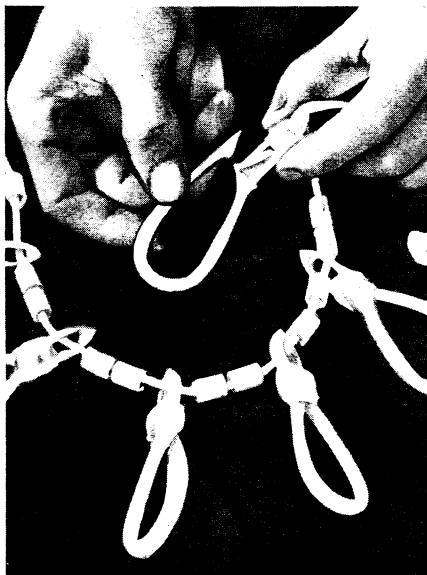
⚙️ **PHOTOCOPY DUPLICATOR** can make instant copies of book or magazine pages as well as single sheets. A sharp black and white copy of any original material, including color pictures or bound pages in a book, can be produced, as well as material printed on both sides of the page. Maximum copy area is nine by 14 and one-half inches.

Science News Letter, April 20, 1957

⚙️ **PORTABLE HACKSAW** is described as the world's smallest and cheapest. A British development, the non-powered unit weighs 15 pounds and, when fully motorized and mounted, 41 pounds. The portable metal-cutter is 22 inches long, seven and one-quarter inches high, and 10 inches wide.

Science News Letter, April 20, 1957

⚙️ **FISH STRINGER**, shown in the photograph, made of lightweight nylon plastic will not rot or corrode. Each stringer comes equipped with six clips molded of a nylon



resin and can be flexed without breaking. By raising a small collar, a point may be freed for hooking through both lips of the fish.

Science News Letter, April 20, 1957

⚙️ **MAGNETIC FLASHLIGHT** is designed to hold fast to steel bicycle handle

bars, auto steering columns, fenders, refrigerator doors and fuse boxes. The permanent magnet is mounted in the switch of the flashlight, and has an average pull of 15 pounds.

Science News Letter, April 20, 1957

⚙️ **SHOCK ABSORBER** for small boats is made of neoprene rubber. It is a rod about three-quarters of an inch in diameter and 20 inches long with an eye in each end. The mooring is threaded through and made fast to both the eyes, leaving some slack. If the absorber breaks in a storm, the boat is still secured.

Science News Letter, April 20, 1957

⚙️ **HAND TOOLS** are made with handles that are "guaranteed" not to break, bend out of shape or collapse. The glass fiber handles are permanently joined to a wide range of hammers and picks without the use of wedges. Safe from rusting, rotting and corroding, the handles are coated with neoprene for better gripping.

Science News Letter, April 20, 1957

⚙️ **WALL PAINT** dries in 20 minutes and is washable a few days later. Made of rubber reinforced vinyl plastic, the paint can be applied with brush, roller or spray and dries to a matte finish. The paint is available in a wide range of colors.

Science News Letter, April 20, 1957



## Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

► WE HUMAN BEINGS incline toward the "magnificent" when we select a symbol to represent ourselves or our institutions. Over and over again, the most diverse kinds of people choose the regal lion, the stately unicorn, the proud eagle or the majestic pine as their seal or symbol.

But now and again, a bit of humor or love of the homely and familiar comes into play, and men forget the magnificent. Such was the case with the early settlers of Ohio who chose the humble, yet typical, buckeye (or horse chestnut) as the floral emblem of their state.

Humor there certainly was in this choice, for the Ohio buckeye *Aesculus glabra*, is known locally as the "stinking buckeye," due to a nauseating odor that comes from the bruised bark. And the buckeye, while a pretty tree with an even prettier blossom,

### Buckeyes



is far from magnificent. It rarely reaches 70 feet in height and a diameter of two feet.

The buckeye is one of the earliest trees to put forth its greenery, being far ahead of the oaks, hickories and ashes in the Ohio region. Very lovely blossoms soon appear, and by early summer the typical pods of the buckeye hang in clusters from the gnarled stems.

When the pods split, three big, shiny brown seeds fall from each. It is the seed that gives the buckeye its name, for with the large pale scar that appears on the seed, it takes on a fanciful resemblance to the eye of a deer.

The buckeye seeds are poisonous, and no squirrel or other nut-loving animal is known to eat them. It is said, however, that the Indians roasted these nuts, peeled and mashed them, then leached them, with the result that the poisonous principle was removed, leaving a nourishing meal.

There are six native buckeye species in the United States, including the Ohio buckeye. The buckeye species which is found as an ornamental over much of temperate America and Europe is, however, a native of western Asia and southeastern Europe.

It was introduced into England about 1630, and was planted in America during the following century.

Science News Letter, April 20, 1957