

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **COMPASS and ELLIPSOGRAPH** are combined in a two-in-one drawing and drafting instrument. The device will scribe circles up to 24 inches in diameter or produce ellipses up to 65 degrees and 12 inches radii. The beam compass converts to an ellipsograph with the change of points and addition of a third aluminum block.

Science News Letter, May 4, 1957

⚙️ **PORTABLE PLAYER** is described as the first transistorized record player of its kind. A German import, the set measures 13 inches by 11 inches by 5 inches. Using four transistors, the record player operates on a six-volt battery and plays 33, 45 and 78 RPM records. Its frequency range is from 50 to 13,000 cycles per second.

Science News Letter, May 4, 1957

⚙️ **VINYL LATEX PAINT** dries to produce a permanently bacteria-proof and fungus-proof wall surface, claim its developers. The non-toxic paint is said to prevent the growth of fungi as long as the surface is not covered up or insulated by extraneous deposits. The paint dries in 30 minutes and is washable in 24 hours. It can be used on plaster, concrete, metal and wood.

Science News Letter, May 4, 1957

⚙️ **PRECISION OILER**, the size of a fountain pen, can lubricate any fitting. Made in Switzerland, it operates with any oil, in-



cluding crude, and is designed to pick up all excess oil after application. Useful for oiling typewriters, as shown in the photograph, cameras, guns, lathes, precision machinery and electronic devices, the instrument functions at any angle, even upside down.

Science News Letter, May 4, 1957

⚙️ **EARTHENWARE LANTERN** for dinner table or outside buffet has a tiny hole

in the back to enable hanging on wall or fastening to exterior of house. The lantern comes with an insect-repelling citronella candle. It measures 9½ inches in height and 7 inches in diameter.

Science News Letter, May 4, 1957

⚙️ **FILM PROJECTOR**, battery-operated, is said to produce up to 25,000 candle power with the use of a specially designed parabolic reflector. Operating on AC or DC, the projector can magnify a slide to the size of an entire wall in an average room. The projector is self-contained and can be carried and used anywhere.

Science News Letter, May 4, 1957

⚙️ **OXIDIZER FILTER** is designed to prevent discolored laundry due to iron deposits in the water supply. The filter unit, which contains a replaceable element, can be installed in any ordinary public or private water supply system. It removes iron down to 0.1 part per million.

Science News Letter, May 4, 1957

⚙️ **ALUMINUM STAIR** tread provides safer footing for industrial workers. The die-cast tread uses a slip-proof abrasive nosing. In tests, it has withstood loads in excess of 3,000 pounds. The tread is available in lengths from 24 inches to 42 inches and is a standard 10 inches wide.

Science News Letter, May 4, 1957



Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

➤ **OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS** all year round for the amateur naturalist, but it knocks loudest in the springtime.

Now the weather is balmy, the trees are in their new green and the mushrooms, flowers, frogs, bugs and birds are everywhere at hand. You cannot beat the springtime for beginning a nature hobby. Why not begin yours now?

You will find the selection of a "specialty"—frogs, beetles, minerals, birds, what-have-you—will greatly add to your pleasure in nature study. While you center down on your special subject, though, you will soon be amazed and pleased at how much you learn about other phases of nature. If you learn about the birds or insects in your area, you cannot help but learn about the special environments in which each kind lives, the plants and animals associated with them and a host of other related nature facts.

A noted amateur ornithologist, describing his first baptism into bird watching,

Nature as a Hobby



told how he bought his field glasses secretly and "shyly sneaked out the back door to look at birds." Well, that is typical. The first trip out with the new glasses, butterfly net or geologist's hammer, requires a certain strength of character—for some unknown reason. But honestly, nobody thinks you are cracking up; go ahead and jump

in. Once in, you will only be sorry you stayed away from the fascinating game so long.

What are some nature hobbies for you? Of course, bird watching ranks high on any list. This requires a sizable investment in the form of binocular field glasses for any real satisfaction.

Why not start close to home, with the common insects of your own back yard? To range farther afield, you might try butterflies and moths, fascinating because of their various colors and forms. A collection of beetles is another full-time nature hobby and, incidentally, one in which Charles Darwin got his start as a naturalist.

In the plant kingdom, wild flowers are fun to collect, either dried and mounted or dug up and planted in your garden. The same goes for the ferns and mushrooms. And do not overlook the minerals.

Whatever special nature hobby you take up, you will find a good number of popular books to help. Have a good time.

Science News Letter, May 4, 1957