

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **TRANSISTORIZED TAPE RECORDER** is battery-operated. The portable recorder weighs less than two pounds and measures $8\frac{1}{2}$ by $6\frac{1}{2}$ by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. It operates off four pen-light batteries. The machine records, plays back, erases and has variable speed controls.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1958

⚙️ **GAS INCINERATOR** designed to dispose of household trash and garbage is said to be smokeless and odorless. The appliance has a pilot safety button and automatic clock-timer that can be set at wet, medium or dry. Its capacity is one and one-half bushels.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1958

⚙️ **OFFICE COPIER** takes originals up to eight and one-half by 11 inches. The 14-pound photo-copying machine can turn out up to five copies of any typed, drawn, written or printed text. The copier's base dimensions are $13\frac{1}{4}$ inches by $17\frac{7}{8}$ inches.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1958

⚙️ **DOUBLE-HULLED DINGHY**, shown in the photograph, that is lightweight and unsinkable uses urethane plastic foam for buoyancy. The 53-pound dinghy is seven and one-half feet long and is a three-seater.



The two glass reinforced polyester hulls are bonded together by pouring the foam into the void between them.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1958

⚙️ **PORTABLE DISHWASHER** is designed to be connected to the faucet. Dishes are washed and rinsed automatically in the 11-pound machine that holds up to 66

pieces of dinnerware and silverware. A full load is washed in six minutes. The washer operates on water power and not electricity.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1958

⚙️ **PLASTIC BUBBLE** for basement window wells keeps them dry and clean. The transparent canopy can be installed by the home owner. It is made of an acrylic plastic and measures 44 inches wide, 22 inches deep and 11 inches high. It is held in place by two wire brackets bolted to a corrugated metal liner inside the metal well.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1958

⚙️ **BOAT HULL PROTECTION** in the tropics is offered against borers and other pests by a mixture of nylon and vinyl. Resin glue is used to fix the British developed material directly to wood. It has high abrasive resistance, is water repellent and elastic.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1958

⚙️ **FISHING LURE** can be used above or under the water. A nibble on the lure releases a spring trigger that snaps the line back. The lure weighs one ounce and is described as fitting any gear without the use of tools.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1958



Nature Ramblings



By BENITA TALL

➤ **SOME DAY** in early spring when the woods are just beginning to have a delicate green glow of new leaves and tender sprouts and the sap has begun to flow it might be a good idea to take to the woods for a vegetable dinner.

Just as in the times of the Indians or the early Americans, it is still possible to dine from soup to nuts on wild food plants.

You might begin with soup made from greenbrier root or use the extremely young flowerheads of cattail for your broth.

For the main course there is a wide variety of roots, stems and leaves to choose from. Try a salad of young shoots of common burdock together with cooked milkweed shoots or pokeweed leaves and boiled spring beauty. Cooked no more than ten minutes, the spring beauty tuber tastes like potato. A bit of *Allium canadense*, wild onion, could be used to flavor the dish.

Food From the Woods



The arrow arum root, which is poisonous when eaten raw, makes the bread. The Indians baked the roots to remove the poison and pounded them into a course mass that was then shaped into cakes and dried in the sun or by the fire. The Indians called the dish "tuckahoe."

For a beverage you have your choice of tea, coffee or, if you had foresight to begin the brewing early, wine. Spicebush or spice-wood tea was a common beverage of the

American pioneer who steeped the twigs, shown in the illustration, to make his drink. The coffee senna bean when roasted is substitute for coffee, as is the chicory root. Dandelion leaves and flowers are used to make wine.

The dessert list is extensive and not too caloric. You might try chewing the long taproot of a young shellbark hickory sprout. Or steamed and roasted quamash bulb makes a rather acceptable molasses substitute. Toothwort, spikenard and calamus or sweet flag are other choices. If you took to the woods last summer and fall, there would also be a bountiful supply of preserved fruits, berries and nuts.

Ferns, palms, even nettles and, in the West, cacti, described in the Wild Flower Preservation Society's quarterly journal *Wild Flower*, can satisfy hunger today as they did not so many years ago. Just be sure you know the poisonous from the non-poisonous before sitting down to eat.

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