

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **MODEL SKELETON** made of plastic can be bent without breaking. The partially articulating model can be made fully articulating by drilling small holes at the joints and joining them with fine wires. Anatomically exact, the skeleton is drawn to one-sixth scale of a six-foot man.

Science News Letter, March 29, 1958

⚙️ **PROJECTION SCREEN** is said to make possible viewing in fully-lighted rooms. The optical light control system of the projection surface is formed on a metalized plastic. The flexible material is washable, tear-resistant, fade-proof and will not discolor.

Science News Letter, March 29, 1958

⚙️ **INNER-GROOVE MICROMETER** can be used to measure and check the depths of internal "O" ring, retaining ring and recess grooves to engineered specifications. Two interchangeable anvils are provided with the micrometer. Grooves can be measured in bores as small as 15/32 of an inch and to a depth of two inches from the face.

Science News Letter, March 29, 1958

⚙️ **MINIATURE GARDEN TOOLS** for the house-plant grower include a rake, spade, pick and shears. The tools, shown in the



photograph, are made of brass set in plastic handles. The four indoor gardening tools are held ready for use in a compact holder.

Science News Letter, March 29, 1958

⚙️ **ONE-COAT MAINTENANCE PAINT** can be used on porous concrete or a variety

of metals. Based on a plastic vinyl acetate latex, the paint is corrosion resistant. It dries in about two hours and can be scrubbed in 24 hours after application if necessary.

Science News Letter, March 29, 1958

⚙️ **FILM LINER** can be tailored to fit any size or shape container. The liner is made of a copolymer of synthetic rubber and vinyl resins. It has a tensile strength of 22 pounds per square inch and an elongation property of 200%. It can withstand hot pourings up to 300 degrees Fahrenheit.

Science News Letter, March 29, 1958

⚙️ **WINTER SLIDING TOY** for children combines the thrill of a toboggan with the steerability of a sled. Made of aluminum, the snow-slider has a plywood seat for junior. Front and rear body sections are coupled by a ball joint for steering ease and riding comfort.

Science News Letter, March 29, 1958

⚙️ **EAR-LOCKS FOR EYEGLASS FRAMES** fit on the ends of the eyeglasses to keep them from sliding down on the nose. The plastic colorless tabs are available in three sizes to fit all plastic, horn or shell-rim frames.

Science News Letter, March 29, 1958



Nature Ramblings



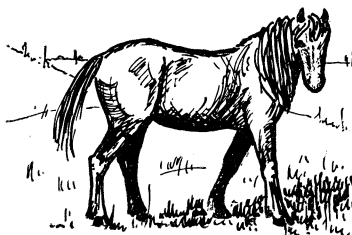
By HORACE LOFTIN

➤ **INDIANS** of the American West have been called the greatest natural horsemen that the world has ever known. Yet they never saw a horse until Spaniards brought them from the Old World for the conquest of the New.

In 1545, the great explorer Hernando De Soto died on the banks of the Mississippi which he had discovered. His companions built boats and sailed back to Mexico, abandoning their horses. It is generally believed that these represent the start of the great herds of wild horses, or mustangs, that came to lord over the western plains. Such as these came to furnish the calvary of the Plains Indians.

Oddly enough, bringing horses to the New World represented something of a homecoming. Remains of one of the first horses—creatures about one foot high—have been found in North America dating from

Even-Toed Mammals



some 50 million years ago! Quite unlike modern horses, this little fellow, called Eohippus, had four complete toes on his forefeet and three (with a remnant of a fourth) on the hindfeet.

Later fossil remains disclose primitive horses whose feet began to approach the modern horse's one-toed condition. Some horses of about three million years ago were one-toed, but some still kept complete side

toes. Then about one million years ago essentially modern horses were abundant throughout North and South America!

Something happened, we do not know what, but all the American horses became extinct. Our present horses descend from wild herds which roamed the great steppes of Asia. Who can say if the ancestors of the American Indians, coming to the New World by way of Siberia and the Bering Strait, did not feast on these fleet beasts of the steppes! (We say "feast," because it was probably ages later before man learned to domesticate the horse. Wild horse flesh was a welcomed addition to primitive man's larder.)

The horses, with their typical single-toed feet, are members of the great order of odd-toed mammals, the Perissodactyla. Others of this group are the tapirs and rhinoceroses, and these too are represented by fossil remains in what is now the United States.

Science News Letter, March 29, 1958