

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **ROSE TRELLIS** made of aluminum is available in three shapes: fan, flair or oblong. Special clamps and slotted design make it easy to put together without tools. The lightweight, heat-reflecting trellis is available in color or natural aluminum.

Science News Letter, April 26, 1958

⚙️ **CARBON PAPER** for accounting systems is a British product. The carbon sheet incorporates two vertical red strips for "in the red" items, so they no longer need be typed in afterwards on individual copies.

Science News Letter, April 26, 1958

⚙️ **PICTURE PROJECTOR** for 16 mm sound movies is a two-in-one combination. It has a built-in 18-by-13-inch screen and can be used for both rear projection and conventional use. The projector comes with a 750 watt lamp and has 1,000 watt capacity. It will accommodate 2,000-foot reels.

Science News Letter, April 26, 1958

⚙️ **BILGE PUMP** for boat owners is made entirely of a polyethylene plastic. Operated manually, the pump, shown in the photograph, is designed to float if accidentally dropped overboard. The salt water and oil-resistant tool pumps 10 gallons a minute.



Normally 24 inches, it can be lengthened to 41 inches with an extension pipe.

Science News Letter, April 26, 1958

⚙️ **FLIGHT COMPUTER** for aircraft pilots is the size of a silver dollar. Time,

distance and mileage scales are on tarnish-proof, anodized aluminum alloys. The computer can be used in a single-engine, propeller-driven plane or a military jet.

Science News Letter, April 26, 1958

⚙️ **WASHING BRUSH** for cleaning the family automobile attaches to the garden hose. The brush is made of soft plastic and described as non-scratching or wax removing. Hollow bristles allow water to flow through the brush in pressurized sprays.

Science News Letter, April 26, 1958

⚙️ **MOTOR MOWER** is designed to be simply operated by women and children. A British development, the 12-inch motor mower weighs 78 pounds. Raising the handle sets the mower in motion and lowering the handle stops both the machine and the blades.

Science News Letter, April 26, 1958

⚙️ **IMPACT HAMMER** has tips machined from a butyrate plastic. The one-piece head and handle are made of a non-ferrous alloy. The threaded replaceable tips are screwed directly to the head. The hammer is available in different weights and tip diameters.

Science News Letter, April 26, 1958



Nature Ramblings



By BENITA TALL

► POETS MAY sing of bluebirds, the first robin and the first crocus, and budding trees as the signs of spring. The family doctor knows better.

The surest sign of spring for him is the appearance of his first poison ivy patient.

Home gardeners, picnickers, vacationers, fishing and hunting enthusiasts throughout the nation all face the poison ivy hazard. The weed is Public Enemy No. 1 of the out-of-doors lover.

Some 500,000 to 1,000,000 Americans fall victim to poison ivy, or *Rhus toxicodendron*, each year. Botanists and many non-scientists know the *Rhus* family of vines and shrubs by its characteristic three leaves. All contain a poison called urushiol which can cause

Harbinger of Spring



what scientists describe as a "dermatitis."

This dermatitis—blisters, redness, swelling and itching—can be caused, in sensitive persons, by just coming near the ivy plant, or touching contaminated garden tools, clothing, or even animals. The oily sap,

which also can be spread in smoke, carries the plant toxin to the unsuspecting victim.

Farmers lead the list of victims to poison ivy with about 23 in every 100 persons requiring treatment falling in this occupational group. Construction workers also are high on the list.

Although no region in the United States is free of the weed, the highest incidence of sufferers is in the South. The area from Texas to the eastern seaboard claims 30% of all cases reported. The northeastern states, Pennsylvania to Maine, report 27%, the western states, 24%, and the north central states only 19%.

For the unfortunate person who reacts severely to the merest touch or whiff of poison ivy toxin, the coming of spring may be a sign to "go north central, young man."

Science News Letter, April 26, 1958