

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **MARINE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS** contain dry chemical fire-fighters. Two models are available, a portable for small craft with accessible engines, and a semiportable for large boats. Both models have salt water resistant undercoatings and come in red, light blue and white.

Science News Letter, May 3, 1958

⚙️ **BRITISH ELECTRIC STOVE** has a removable, disposable roof of aluminum foil. It also has six six-heat control plates and a griddle plate. The stove further boasts an electric eye-level grill controlled by a three-heat switch.

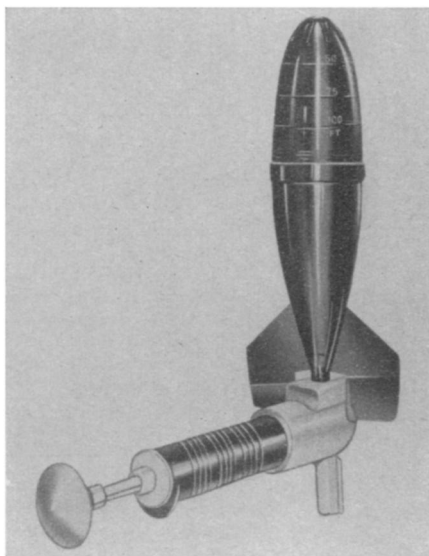
Science News Letter, May 3, 1958

⚙️ **GARMENT HOLDER** for travelers fits all sedan model automobiles. Installed without the need for tools, the hanger holds up to a dozen suits or dresses. It is rust-proof and driving visibility is said to be unaffected.

Science News Letter, May 3, 1958

⚙️ **PROJECTION VIEWSCOPE** will fit any microscope with a monocular tube. The viewscope has a prism lens system that produces images on a five-inch viewing screen. The coarse and fine focusing knobs of the microscope bring the specimen into focus on the viewscope.

Science News Letter, May 3, 1958



⚙️ **CHILDREN'S ROCKET SET**, shown in the photograph, consists of a pump, a butyrate plastic rocket, and an eight-ounce water fuel supply tank. The tank can be fastened to a belt and holds enough water

fuel for 20 flights of the rocket. Rocket can be sent soaring to 50, 75, 100 or more feet.

Science News Letter, May 3, 1958

⚙️ **CARD GAME** is played with standard card decks and any number of players from two to six can play. It entails two trump suits, wild cards and a scoreboard. Plastic scoreboard and rules are included.

Science News Letter, May 3, 1958

⚙️ **ARTIFICIAL SOIL** can be rolled on like a carpet. The garden mat contains organic materials, seeds, plant foods, inoculants, minerals, regulators and hormones. Weighing 24 ounces, the mat can be rolled out to cover an area of 18 feet by one foot. The quarter-inch thick mat requires only water to promote flower growth.

Science News Letter, May 3, 1958

⚙️ **STEREOPHONIC AMPLIFIER** is said to enable ordinary records, tape, or FM radio to give stereophonic reproduction. The impulse from an ordinary record changer, tape recorder or radio is fed into the amplifier and separated into low and high frequency components. The listener hears music emanating from different instruments and different directions.

Science News Letter, May 3, 1958



## Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

► PROPPED AGAINST a pine tree before the field laboratory of Florida State University's Oceanographic Institute is a long, narrow, bleached piece of bone. This skeletal piece extends higher than the eaves of the building, yet it is only the jawbone of the monstrous animal it came from.

The jawbone was found buried in the sand along the Gulf of Mexico near Alligator Harbor. Identification by an expert proved it to come from a sperm whale, one of the few records from that part of the world.

As big as it is, this jawbone is not much as whales go. The great sulphur bottomed whale dwarfs the largest dinosaur that ever existed. An adult elephant could stand inside the bulk of that leviathan, which attains some 100 feet in length.

The whalers of the "Moby Dick" days largely ignored the whales that make up

### Th'ar She Blows!



most of today's catches. Moby Dick himself was a sperm whale, one of that toothed, aggressive group of whales the old New Bedford men sought out around the world. The sperm whale was especially favored because of the tremendous store of oil to be found in its head. This could literally be dipped out by the bucketsful.

Today's whalers generally go after the large "whalebone" whales, that group with-

out teeth. With modern methods of obtaining oil from the flesh, more efficient (if less romantic) means of killing the beasts, and factory vessels on the spot, it now pays to take species once scorned by Captain Ahab and his contemporaries.

All whales and porpoises, or dolphins, belong to the order of mammals called Cetacea.

Mammal-like, the young are born alive and are suckled at the breast. Their general body form is fish-like, with the fore limbs evolved into fin-like paddles and hind limbs totally absent externally. (Some species have traces of limbs deep within their bodies, relics of life on the dry earth many aeons past.)

If there is ever any doubt as to whether a denizen of the sea is a large fish or a whale, one look at the tail will answer the question. In fish, the tail runs up and down; in all whales, it is flattened horizontally.

Science News Letter, May 3, 1958