

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **STRUCTURAL PLASTIC** panel for patios reflects the sun's heat but allows light to pass through. The panel is made of a layer of perforated, embossed aluminum foil sandwiched between two layers of a translucent reinforced plastic. Available in four colors, the panels can be worked on with hammer, screwdriver, drill and saw.

Science News Letter, June 28, 1958

⚙️ **PORTABLE DEHUMIDIFIER** removes two to three gallons of water from the atmosphere every 24 hours. Mounted on wheels, it has a removable rust proof drawer for emptying. A permanent drain can be installed. The room dehumidifier can also be connected by an automatic control.

Science News Letter, June 28, 1958

⚙️ **WATER SKIING TOW ROPES** are made of polyethylene plastic. The laid construction has a breaking strength of approximately 1,100 pounds, while the braid's breaking strength is a little less. Each unit has 75 feet of one-quarter-inch yellow rope attached to either single or double hardwood handles.

Science News Letter, June 28, 1958

⚙️ **LOCOMOTIVE TOY** runs on the floor or table top, without tracks. The remote-control toy, shown in the photograph, is



powered by standard flashlight batteries. Push buttons and a steering wheel move the locomotive forward, in reverse, or to right or left. Its body is made of an acetate plastic. The toy also serves as a bank.

Science News Letter, June 28, 1958

⚙️ **BLACK LIGHT KIT** has all the ingredients for the experimenter to put together his own lamp. The kit contains a four-

watt fluorescent type bulb with a filter, a ballast, a starter and starter socket, lamp mounting, a switch, diagram and black light chalk in nine colors. Three bottles of water colors are also included.

Science News Letter, June 28, 1958

⚙️ **LEATHER JACKETS** for beverage glasses prevent "wet bottoms." Hand-made of leather, the tall coasters are held together by gold or black braid laces. They are available in five colors, red, harvest, tan, black and brown.

Science News Letter, June 28, 1958

⚙️ **CIRCULAR SLIDE RULE** for engineers, students and plant executives is pocket-size. Said to be simple and accurate, the slide rule can be used for multiplication, division and to find proportions. Instructions are included with the rule.

Science News Letter, June 28, 1958

⚙️ **WALL VENTILATOR** is designed to reduce the moisture content of masonry walls. Two of the metal ventilators are secured to concrete walls, where one acts as a fresh air intake and the other as a stale air exhaust. They are described as preventing dampness and eliminating mildew and musty odors.

Science News Letter, June 28, 1958



## Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

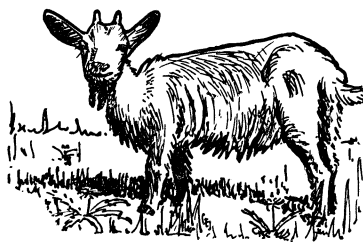
➤ A VARIETY of names have been provided for animals according to their eating habits: Meat eaters are called carnivores, plant eaters are herbivores, insect eaters are insectivores, and so on and on.

What kind of name can be given the goat, then, that animal with an appetite for everything from lush foliage to wall-paper?

Old Billy does have a wide variety on his menu, though to be strictly technical we have to place him along with more choosy herbivores. Rumors that he eats tin cans are completely false, he merely eats the wrappers off the cans!

This hardy appetite is one of the principal reasons for the popularity of the goat among people in many areas of the world where rock, desert and infertile soil abound. Billy can make his living in even the most inhospitable climate by diligent close crop-

ping of the scant vegetation and even browsing of tree limbs and bark.



ping of the scant vegetation and even browsing of tree limbs and bark.

And for this same reason, the goat is possibly one of the chief causes of agricultural poverty in these areas. He can do such an effective job of eating, that flocks of goats can practically denude an area of its scant vegetation over a period of time.

This results in rapid run-off and loss of the little rain that falls on such land.

Soil and soil fertility are lost through erosion of earth stripped of its vegetation cover. Especially in some areas of the Middle East goats, drought, poor soils and poverty go hand in hand.

Agricultural experts have repeatedly warned of the possible disastrous results of raising goats on sub-marginal agricultural land. In some countries, stringent laws have been passed against possession of goats in certain areas. But the ancient ways too often prevail against reason and even law. The goat is milk, meat and clothing to the poor there; the animal costs little to buy and less to feed.

Thus, a vicious cycle continues, with agricultural poverty increasing as good soil, fertility and moisture decrease. Many lands that were once those of "milk and honey" are now deserts.

The goats' cloven hoof tracks can be seen in the wastelands.

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