

New Machines And Gadgets

Novel Things for Better Living

Autoists loading into the car and into the trunk space all that Wife and Junior think is absolutely necessary for the trip, only to find that there is then no room for the passengers, will appreciate the "built-in folding trailer" recently patented. It is a sort of extension to the trunk compartment that slides out and lets down a wheel to support its rear end. Then either the baby or the baggage can ride in the trailer.

Underinflated tires usually go undiscovered until you drive up to a filling station or reach your destination. This situation is remedied by a "deflation indicator" recently patented. The device attaches to the hub of the wheel and is operated by the tire pressure itself. When the pressure sinks to a predetermined amount, a switch is closed and a visual or audible signal is given the driver.

The comfort of reading in bed will be increased by a cool fluorescent lamp now available. The lamp is molded of ivory or walnut bakelite for a single 15-inch, 14-watt tube. It has two felt-lined spring clamps for attachment and will be found useful also for illuminating mirrors, pictures, and bulletin boards.

Cotton picked wet can now be dried and cleaned before it goes to the gin by means of machines developed by the Department of Agriculture. Previously southern farmers lost heavily on their crops if rain wet or splashed dirt on the cotton bolls. Now they can ignore Old Man Weather.

A collapsible valise that can be converted into a flat package a couple of inches thick when not in use and thus stored in small space on the shelf, has lately won a patent. It is all done with zippers. The valise is made in one piece and folded up like a carton. In place of the usual paste and paper, the edges are held together by zippers.

You can eat your pretzel, and have a doughnut, too, if you patronize the products of a device recently patented by a Pacific Coast inventor. It is a doughnut cutter that punches out the succulent fried-cakes with three holes, and generally shaped so that they look like fat pretzels.

This highway marker can stripe a highway at the rate of 15 miles per hour. It can make one, two or three lines at the same time, in one or two colors, solid or intermittent lines in any combination. The truck carries



tanks and a compressor for feeding the markers. The latter consist of atomizing spray guns provided with side shields which assure clean-cut lines.

To keep the pilot warm, though the temperature sink to 60 below, an electrically heated flying suit is now worn. The outer shell is of wool and the wires are sewn on the inside of this shell. The lining of cotton permits radiation of heat to the body. Electrically warmed boots are also used. The suit is said to be many pounds lighter than the sheep-skin-lined garments they replace.

If you want sources of further information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St. N. W., Washington, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 75.

Science News Letter, October 18, 1941



SCIENCE CLUBS OF AMERICA

Sponsored by Science Service

NEWS OF CLUBS

Elizabeth R. Norton, chairman of the science department and sponsor of the Alpha Astronomy Club of Emerson Junior High School, Flint, Mich. writes:

"Naturally, we wish to renew our membership. The help and guidance received from your organization is a spur to our club and its activities. This year my Science Department is organizing three more clubs: Geology, Biology and Weather Forecasting. In addition, a Camera Club is being formed. All of these wish to become affiliated with Science Clubs of America because we have found that affiliation with a national group has been an inspiration. Our Astronomy Club has met three times this fall and is giving public demonstrations."

This indicates the advantages of becoming affiliated with an international movement. The service of these quintuple clubs extends not only to the students but also to the community.

The Edgewood Science Club of Edgewood Junior High School, Hollidays Cove, W. Va., has just been organized under the sponsorship of C. A. Garrison, science teacher.

Bernice Varvil, sponsor of the Advanced Science Club of the Harrisburg Junior High School, Harrisburg, Ill. would like to exchange insect exhibits and other items with a club in some Latin American country.

Clubs are invited to become affiliated with SCA for a nominal \$2 for 20 members or less. You can become an associate of SCA for 25 cents, which includes a copy of the 128-page Science Handbook for 1942. Address: Science Clubs of America, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C.

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