

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

If you want more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., Washington 6, D. C. and ask for Gadget Bulletin 428. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **AUTOMOBILE DOOR LOCK**, which can not be opened by children while the car is moving or the engine running, makes use of a vacuum tube from the engine which pulls spring-retracted strikers into locked position on the doors when the engine is started. Pressure on a button on the instrument board breaks the vacuum when desired.

Science News Letter, August 21, 1948

⚙️ **BIT-WEIGHT CONTROL** is an electrical above-ground device which automatically controls the downward pressure on an oil-drilling bit, working up to 18,000 feet down in the earth, caused by the weight of the bit's shaft. It adjusts the position of the hoisting mechanism to maintain a constant restraining force on the drill stem.

Science News Letter, August 21, 1948

⚙️ **ALUMINIZED STEEL** of a new type is particularly for anodes and other fabricated parts for vacuum tube use. The material eliminates the need for carbonized nickel-plated steel parts, and, it is claimed, provides better welding properties, lower cost and eliminates possible transfer of carbon to cathode during manufacture.

Science News Letter, August 21, 1948

⚙️ **EYE-TESTING** and training instru-



ment, shown in the picture, is a complete and versatile device for use by professionals in determining visual deficiencies and the proper prescriptions for corrective glasses. It also discovers inability of the two eyes to function as a unit and assists correction by eye muscle training.

Science News Letter, August 21, 1948

⚙️ **DRYING TIME** recorder, for testing paints, varnishes, enamels, adhesives and other coatings, is placed over a wet film applied to a glass panel and has a spherical pin that travels in a circle in contact with the film. Rotating at the rate of one revolution per day, recording mechanism shows when the pin no longer leaves an impression on the film.

Science News Letter, August 21, 1948

⚙️ **DRIER FOR** photographic prints, photostats and blueprints, with electrically driven variable-speed drum and a balanced heater unit within the drum, is an improved type suitable for small shop or home use. Operating on 120-volt current, either alternating or direct, it is plugged into an electric outlet without special wiring.

Science News Letter, August 21, 1948

⚙️ **RIBBONWRITER**, an attachment for standard typewriters by means of which from one to five copies may be made without the use of carbon paper, produces letters all of which look like originals. The ribbons of the easy-to-attach and easy-to-use device outlast ordinary ribbons two to one because cushioned from sharp keys by paper.

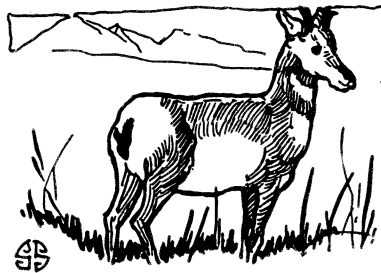
Science News Letter, August 21, 1948

# • Nature Ramblings by Frank Thone •

► CERTAINLY speediest of all hoofed animals, and perhaps fastest thing that runs on four feet, is the claim advanced on behalf of the pronghorn antelope by Arthur S. Einarsen, leader of the Oregon Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, in a new book, **THE PRONGHORN ANTELOPE AND ITS MANAGEMENT** (Wildlife Management Institute, \$4).

On their native range, pronghorn frequently get into races with automobiles, running parallel with them, or crossing in front of them on the road. This affords good opportunity for measurement of their speed, in cars with accurate speedometers. A collection of all available records made by Mr. Einarsen, together with his own observations, shows 50 miles an hour as a rather common racing speed for the animals. Once a pronghorn, in the course of such a volunteer race, passed in front of his car which was running at 61 miles an hour. There is also one statement of a 70-mile clip attained by a pronghorn doe. Mr. Einarsen thinks that the only mammal that

## Fleetest Hooves



can move faster than that, even for short distances, may be the cheetah, or hunting leopard of the Orient.

Confidence in its ability to run away from any enemy on the ground permits the pronghorn to indulge its highly developed trait of curiosity. Mr. Einarsen tells of pronghorn "kibitzer galleries" that have watched roadbuilding machinery in opera-

tion, in quite human fashion. Even newborn pronghorn kids are intensely inquisitive when approached by humans.

Increase in pronghorn numbers, under hunting restrictions and modern wildlife management methods, need occasion no great concern over their competition with livestock for food plants on the range. Close study of their food habits shows that their first preference is for browsing on sagebrush and other shrubs, then for rangeland weeds, with grass coming in only as third choice. Harm to field crops seems to result more from trampling by herds taking short cuts than by actual feeding.

Despite their great jumping ability, pronghorn do not often sail over even low fences. They much prefer getting under them, and if the bottom wire is as much as a foot above ground the animals can slip through with hardly any check in their speed.

Science News Letter, August 21, 1948