

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **PICNIC CARRYING CASE**, which opens to form a low table, is large dress-suitcase size, and contains inside a removable waterproof food tray, leaving space for bathing suits. The two sides of the case form the table top, the opened case being held above the earth by hinged legs.

Science News Letter, May 21, 1949

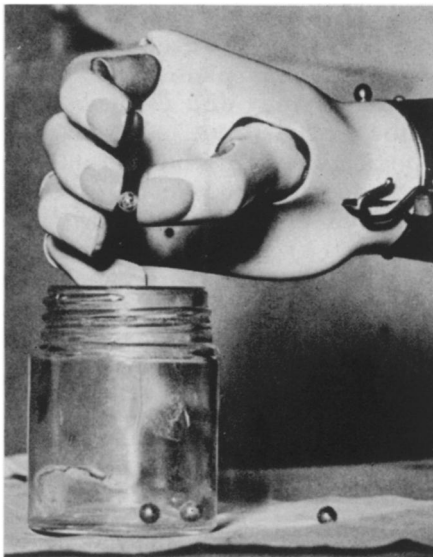
⚙️ **FOLDING OVEN** for campers is placed, not over, but near the fire and cooks by reflected heat. This aluminum affair has two compartments, both with triangular sides, and square sloping backs which are separated by a black-iron baking shelf. Heat from the fire is reflected against the iron plate by the sloping surfaces.

Science News Letter, May 21, 1949

⚙️ **HOSPITAL BED** can be raised silently to treatment height in one minute by merely pressing a button on the outside of the footboard, out of reach of a patient. The lifting is done by a quarter-horsepower motor, installed below the spring, and a cleverly devised mechanism concealed in the end tubing.

Science News Letter, May 21, 1949

⚙️ **MECHANICAL HAND**, shown in the picture, is an English development and is now on test at London's Emergency Limb Center. All its joints are like those of a normal hand, and its wearer can pick



up with its quarter-inch ball bearings and cigarettes.

Science News Letter, May 21, 1949

⚙️ **SEWING KIT**, a neat, transparent, plastic, round box, holds six spools of thread in upright position, and has a porthole for each spool through which the loose end of the thread is extended. In the center is space for needle storage and a thimble.

Science News Letter, May 21, 1949

⚙️ **LOW-COST FIRE ALARM** system for homes has five heat detectors for placement in strategic places. Each heat detector, wired in circuit to a four-inch alarm gong, consists of a highly sensitive thermostat mounted in a thin brass housing which functions at 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

Science News Letter, May 21, 1949

⚙️ **PLASTIC TINY FISH**, for catching elusive game fish, has glittering eyes and a flexible fin and tail. It has two retractable fish hooks near the tail, concealed in the body. They are fastened to the fishline, and spring out to hold the gamester when he swallows the bait and pulls the line.

Science News Letter, May 21, 1949

⚙️ **LAUNDRY BAG**, for use in transporting the family washing to and from self-service laundries, is made of a transparent rubber-like plastic through which moisture can get neither in nor out. It protects the seat of a car from dampness and keeps the laundry spotless.

Science News Letter, May 21, 1949

⚙️ **MIDGET RADIOACTIVITY** detector has been made possible by the invention of a compact electronic scaling circuit which is used to automatically add up pulses from a sensitive Geiger counter tube. This portable, light-weight instrument is an aid to accurate radioactivity survey work and uranium prospecting.

Science News Letter, May 21, 1949

## Do You Know?

Sixty pounds of extra nitrogen an acre applied to pea crops in two experimental plots last year in New York state resulted in increased yields ranging from 300 to 700 pounds of shelled peas.

Oslo, Norway, has a spring *clean-up week* in which government authorities and private citizens unite to clear winter debris from all streets and other public property and the property of individuals.

*Blacksmith shops* in motor trucks, which travel from farm to farm and to other places where there are horses to be shod, are becoming common in the United States, over 1,000 now being in use.

Treatment for *tonsils and adenoids* accounted for the bulk of Pennsylvania's expenditures in its new state program to aid school children whose parents can not afford the medical cost.

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