

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **SAWDUST FLOWERPOTS** are claimed to be porous, sterile, virtually unbreakable, impervious to temperature extremes, and mildew-resistant. They are also said to have better insulating properties than conventional clay pots.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1959

⚙️ **GAS-LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPH**, for separation and analysis of such things as chemicals, foods and biological products, uses an ionization detector system said to maintain stability and reproducibility virtually independent of such variables as temperature, pressure or flow rate.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1959

⚙️ **PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTER** automatically brings out maximum detail from each portion of film by using a scanning light beam from a cathode ray tube as a light source. When the exposing spot of light from the tube encounters a dense region on the negative, it instantaneously becomes brighter. The machine is for professional photofinishers.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1959

⚙️ **PLASTIC VENEER**, resembling hand-rubbed wood, as shown in the photograph, covers steel kitchen cabinet doors, table tops, bars, sinks, and wall panels. It is un-



affected by alcohol, fruit acids, boiling water and common household chemicals.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1959

⚙️ **MOUNTED TELESCOPE** for professional and amateur astronomers permits instant changeover from visual observation to

astrophotography through use of a camera adapter and pushbutton guide telescope attached to a clock drive. Equipped with three eyepieces, the telescope has a 4¼-inch f/11 reflector.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1959

⚙️ **LARGE DICE**, measuring one and a half inches on a side, are made of heavy, clear red plastic. Complete with white dots, they may be used as knickknacks, paper weights or desk ornaments.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1959

⚙️ **PAYROLL CALCULATOR** is a system of hinged cards with index tabs having data on wages from 75¢ to \$5. It is said to eliminate the need for all figuring. All one has to do is read and copy precalculated and verified answers as to regular pay, overtime pay and total.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1959

⚙️ **NYLON HINGE** requires no lubrication yet will not stick or squeak. It can be produced in the color, shape or finish to meet the specific hinge design needed. No pin is required since the mating halves are molded together inseparably. The hinge is said to withstand hammering, immersion in boiling water or corrosive chemicals, and sub-zero temperatures without ill effect.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1959



Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

➤ A FEW SHORT weeks ago, the dead cypresses rearing their moss-draped forms from the swamps of the St. Marks Wildlife Refuge would have made perfect symbols of emptiness and desolation.

By now these same cypresses will have become transformed into a picture of familial "togetherness," as scores of ospreys, or fish hawks, arrive to set up house for the year.

The return of the ospreys to north Florida is looked upon with a great deal of pleasure, something like the arrival of the first robin up north, or the swallows returning to Capistrano on time. The natives know for sure that killing frosts are over and spring is there to stay when the great nests of twigs and branches begin to appear once more on the barren limbs.

At one spot along the road that winds through the St. Marks refuge, more than 20 nests scattered through the swamps will

Return of the Osprey



be visible. These represent just a small fraction of the ospreys in the area. The same nesting sites are used year after year.

Sometimes, the returning ospreys have little to do in setting up housekeeping besides making a few minor repairs to the old nests. But in hurricane years, or when winter winds have been severe, the old structures are blown down. Then the big birds must start from scratch with their new homes.

Within a few short weeks, most of these nests will have from two to four young in them. Mother and father osprey take turns on the nest during incubation and after the hatching so that the unoccupied parent can hunt for food on fishing expeditions.

The osprey on the hunt soars over a likely area of water till he spots a surface-swimming fish. In a flash, the osprey changes from reconnaissance plane to dive bomber, dropping with terrific speed and force on the prey.

The hard-working osprey may meet a little trouble as he attempts to take the meal back to the family, for there is a villain in this piece: the bald eagle. So long as there is an osprey around to catch fish for him, the bald eagle is seldom seen to do his own fishing.

He harasses the osprey until it drops its prey. The eagle then swoops immediately down to catch the fish before it hits the water.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1959