

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **BARBECUE CHARCOAL SCUTTLE** is of shiny black polyethylene and supposedly cannot be damaged by stains from the sooty briquets. A tight-fitting lid converts the scuttle into a spill-proof storage bin for charcoal. A wire bail with plastic handle facilitates carrying, lifting and pouring.

Science News Letter, March 21, 1959

⚙️ **ROSIN FLUX** for use in soldering has relatively low conductivity in its raw state. But during soldering, its conductive constituents are destroyed and the flux residue becomes highly resistive. This is an important feature in circuitry soldering, where the flux is said to be especially valuable.

Science News Letter, March 21, 1959

⚙️ **FISH NET** has three handles that screw together for extra length. The angle of the hoop net may be changed with a slight wrist movement, giving a greater net area that is more parallel with the water's surface. Made of aluminum, the net is said to float.

Science News Letter, March 21, 1959

⚙️ **SAFETY JACKET AND PANTS** of vinyl sheeting are lightweight, weather-resistant and stay pliable in cold weather. The material's high dielectric strength offers telephone linemen protection against electricity. When used in chemical plants, the



items, shown in the photograph, offer resistance to acids, oils, alkalis, and will not mildew. They resist abrasion and are said to be simple to repair if punctured.

Science News Letter, March 21, 1959

⚙️ **HANGING DEVICE** for mounting a cup and saucer, together, on a wall or cabinet is made of solid brass with antique gold colored finish. It consists of two parallel

coil springs attached to four turned-in hooks, which hold the saucer. At the top is a center loop which holds the saucer to the wall, and a larger center hook, from which the cup is suspended by its handle.

Science News Letter, March 21, 1959

⚙️ **THREE-DIMENSIONAL MAP** of the United States is formed of durable plastic that children can draw or paint on, then erase or wash off. It measures 18¼ inches by 28¾ inches.

Science News Letter, March 21, 1959

⚙️ **METAL UTILITY CANS** for holding lubricating oils, chemicals, and other liquids can be stacked end to end. They come in 2½-gallon, 5-gallon and 40-pound fluid grease sizes. Reversible pouring spouts stored inside the cans during shipment clinch on the outside for fast, smooth dispensing.

Science News Letter, March 21, 1959

⚙️ **BUFFING COMPOUND REMOVER** is a liquid detergent that penetrates and dissolves hardened compounds by forming soluble soaps with them. Mixed with water and used at 150 to 200 degrees Fahrenheit, it will remove buffing and polishing compounds from steel, nickel plate, copper, brass, aluminum and most other basis metals.

Science News Letter, March 21, 1959



Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

➤ THE NATURALIST, who had trouble keeping even a geranium growing, was more than surprised to see the results of his little experiment. The previous spring he had discovered an intriguing plant growing on the forest floor and transplanted it in his back yard. The plant promptly withered away and was totally forgotten.

But on this early spring day, on what appeared barren ground the day before, were a half dozen striking white flowers, made all the more beautiful by their simplicity. Surrounding each blossom was the oddly lobed leaf of the plants he had put down the year before.

The plant was the bloodroot, a harbinger of spring almost everywhere east of the Mississippi.

The naturalist had missed seeing the emerging plants the day before because the three- to four-inch leaves are tightly wrapped around the flowering stalk, and

Wild Poppies



so are scarcely visible, until they unroll almost overnight.

There are other characteristics about this low and lowly spring wildflower as intriguing as its unusual leaf.

Its name, for example. If you break the rootstock, a bright orange-red juice appears, looking for all the world like blood. Hence, "bloodroot" as a name, and this is even carried over into its scientific title, "Sanguinaria," which refers to blood. Of course, a multitude of myths and folk tales have

grown up around this forest plant on the basis of its "bleeding."

The bloodroot is a member of the poppy family. This group, characterized by milky or colored sap and showy flowers, is a great contributor to our stock of wildflowers. Also numbered among the wild poppies are the celadine, cream-cup, matilija poppy, tree poppy, California poppy and many others.

Bloodroot is a native wildflower. Celadine is a stowaway from Europe, slipping into this country hidden among the belongings of the early settlers. Today it is well-naturalized, its clusters of bright yellow flowers appearing especially near abandoned farmhouses.

The California poppy, a low-growing plant with bright blossoms, is one of the best known of our western wildflowers. As one admirer described it, "there are few sights so colorful as a treeless expanse of rolling hills aflame with millions of these golden flowers, crowding each other so closely that no earth or foliage is visible."

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