

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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**HOSE COUPLING** connects hoses, sprinklers or nozzles with just a push and disconnects them with a half-turn. Designed to provide a leak-proof connection, the nylon resin coupling is reportedly resistant to garden sprays, insecticides and detergents.

Science News Letter, August 1, 1959

**WEEDER** lets you pluck weeds from the garden without bending or stooping. Made of lightweight aluminum, it is 37 inches long, and has easy-grasp plastic handles. The weeding tool can also be used for digging holes for transplanting.

Science News Letter, August 1, 1959

**PLASTIC FOOTBALL TEES** are impact-resistant even in the coldest weather. The kicking tees are strong, tough, and hold the ball in position. Since they do not have to be "heeled" into the ground to stay upright, they help protect the turf. Yellow in color, they are easily seen against the grass.

Science News Letter, August 1, 1959

**PORTABLE ELECTRIC ORGAN**, shown in the photograph, weighs only 25 pounds and can be converted into its own carrying



case. The spinet organ has 12 bass chords and 34 treble keys, all of which are lettered or numbered to correspond with specially-prepared music books.

Science News Letter, August 1, 1959

**RECHARGEABLE FLASHLIGHT** fits the hand or pocket and weighs only three and one-half ounces. The plastic-enclosed

unit breaks into two parts: the head housing the bulb, and a nickel cadmium battery. The flashlight can be recharged by removing the head and plugging the battery into any AC electric outlet.

Science News Letter, August 1, 1959

**INDOOR INCINERATOR** burns trash and garbage without releasing smoke or odors. The gas incinerator's flue is lined with a ceramic that consumes all smoke and odors. The unit, with a capacity of 1.5 bushels, is made of cast iron and steel.

Science News Letter, August 1, 1959

**PLASTIC BUILDING KITS** can be used to make models of trains, planes, ships or buildings. The tubing can be cut to size, then bent and formed into proper shape. Models can be taken apart and new ones made with the same parts.

Science News Letter, August 1, 1959

**SATELLITE TOY** has rotor blades powered by an internal combustion engine. Made of plastic, the sturdy toy has an engine with an automatic starter, a piston, cylinder and glow plug.

Science News Letter, August 1, 1959



## Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

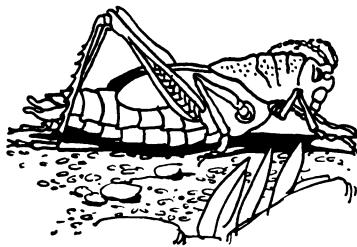
THE CROPS are up and ripening in the sun. Except for sun-loving composites, most of the wild plants have already bloomed, and their seeds are plentiful, furnishing an abundance of food for the smaller animals.

Most of the birds and mammals have already produced their young, and these are practicing on shaky wings and feet their lessons for the winter ahead. The woodland bird voices are still now. With the mating season over and the offspring nearly self sufficient, the nesting territory is abandoned as is the song by which each male bird once proclaimed his homestead.

Firm family ties are being broken, as the males leave their mates to wander alone or in "stag" company. The young strike out on their own, too. The air is warm, food is everywhere, and there is time for play and sleep.

The new voice of the forest and countryside is that of the insects. Cicadas whirl their cadenced song from the high sycamore. (They say you can tell the temperature by counting the number of chirps per

### Intermezzo



minute of its song.) Other insect sounds penetrate the air, but these are mostly reserved for the nighttime when the heat of day has abated somewhat.

As the air is filled with insect voices, so is the land filled with the insects themselves in the short period of the year when they can be active. Most of them never live as adults beyond that first summer and fall, relying on eggs hidden in the earth to carry their kind through the winter ahead. But now the grasshopper fiddles, and one rather feels sorry for the laborious ant who misses the summer fun.

The butterflies too are bent on enjoying their short summer. Most of them sip the sweet nectar of the flowers, while others, like the purple emperor, will descend to sample some dead and decaying animal.

Most of these beautiful creatures only live a few days and even in this short span they are subject to many preying enemies. Because they prefer the sunshine and bright colored flowers, their markings are correspondingly bright and colorful, an aid in camouflage.

In the lakes and rivers the fish seem lazy and reluctant to bite the bounteous supply of worms, minnows, flies, plugs, spinners and spoons dangled before them by a host of accommodating human fishermen. But why should they bite? Plant and insect food, and small fish, are available on all sides; they are already full to repletion. For most species the spawning is over. And it is much cooler down in those deep holes.

But on warm summer days a fisherman doesn't really mind if the fish do not bite. As a matter of fact, if a fish bites his line, it might wake him up!

Science News Letter, August 1, 1959