

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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COMBINATION FILTER-HEATER for swimming pools heats all the water for the pool as it passes through the filter rather than just a part of the entering water. As a result, water can be heated at lower temperatures, preventing clogging due to scaling and precipitation of lime.

Science News Letter, January 2, 1960

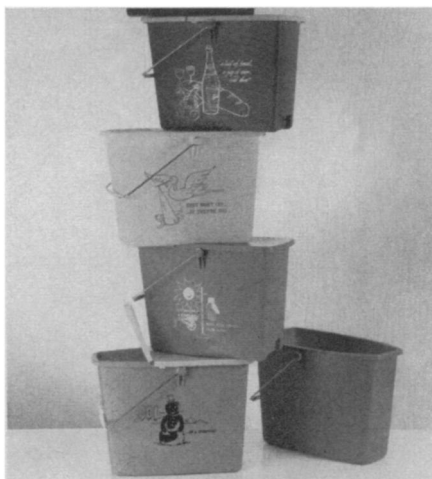
PORTABLE STEEL DOLLY, designed specifically to move supply or refuse cans up to 20 inches in diameter, has a weight capacity of 300 pounds. Its cross members are made of $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch by 3-inch rust-resistant cadmium-plated hard rolled steel.

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VENETIAN BLIND ENAMEL enables the do-it-yourselfer to apply a hard durable finish to his blinds with a brush or spray. Available in white, eggshell, oyster white and pastel green, the enamel dries dust-free in half an hour.

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PLASTIC BUCKETS, shown in the photograph, of the same basic design have six different uses and have decorations appropriate to each use. Each has a hinged, snap-on cover, is light in weight and easy



to clean. The units include a briquette scuttle, picnic basket, cooler, garden tool chest, diaper pail, and a mop bucket or pouring pail. They nest for storage.

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SLIDE RULE COMPARATOR lists details on office copying machines made by ten different manufacturers. Designed to help the prospective purchaser select the

proper copying equipment, it contains information on machines and paper costs, types of copying processes, number of copies possible per minute and details on ten other categories.

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CARPENTER'S PLANE is only three and a half inches in length and is said to be accurate for fine finishing in close, small work. Its one-inch cutter is made of alloy tool steel and is adjusted with a nickel-plated screw.

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AIR SAMPLER collects dusts and aerosols on special filters that can be analyzed to determine concentration of radioactive particles, toxic metals, dust contaminants and air pollutants. Powered by a motor-driven turbine, it weighs nine pounds with a four-inch sampling head.

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BUSINESS MACHINE KEYBOARD with ten keys is lightweight and fits into the palm of the hand. Encased in anodized aluminum, the keyboard can feed data to any electronic data recording device which can supply required voltage.

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Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

ACCORDING to a popular guide to North American animals, the bobcat or wildcat (*Lynx rufus*) seems to be on his way out. The book describes it as once ranging throughout the United States but "now extirpated in the densely settled parts" of the East. That is the picture I held, too, until I went out in the Florida woods about 15 miles from town with a professional trapper. Within a matter of minutes, he had located the spoor of numerous 'possums, 'coons and foxes and along with them the tracks of two bobcats.

It had only been a few months before this that I saw my first "wild" wildcat in a marsh not far from home. I had thought this to be a rarity. But the hunter assured me that he often takes two or three bobcats a night when he sets his traps especially for them. Since that lesson in woodcraft, I have located many such tracks; seeing a full grown bobcat run across a busy highway a few weeks ago was not such a surprise.

Probably the wildcat is quite a rarity in

Big Cats of America



the environs of the great metropolises of the East. But given a secluded bit of woods, a thick bottomland or swamp where it can avoid man, there the bobcat is holding its own in feline disdain of the surrounding civilization.

Another big cat, the Canadian lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) haunts the woods of the North.

This cat is found from Alaska across Canada, southward into the Rockies to Colorado and into Oregon. It also dips southward from Canada into northern New England. The lynx, a lover of colder climates, has been pushed northward from

its original range, but it never was so generally distributed as the bobcat.

The mountain lion is known variously as the panther, cougar, catamount and a score of other names, including *Felis concolor* to biologists. It ranges from Patagonia in southern South America to well into the borders of Canada. In the West, this cat is fairly abundant and furnishes big game hunting to sportsmen. To cattlemen, it is often considered more of a pest than a source of sport since it occasionally kills stock.

The "panther," as it is called in Florida, still haunts the remoter woods and swamps of that state in limited numbers. And the talk around pot-bellied stoves in general stores through other regions of the South often centers about the "mountain-lion" rumored to dwell in the local swamps.

Still other big cats are to be found in the U. S. borders close to Mexico. The jaguar (*Felis onca*) of the South American tropics gets into Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. The ocelot (*Felis pardalis*) ranges all the way from Paraguay into the American Southwest.

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