

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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**PARKING TIMER** that can be attached to a key ring may be set up to 60 minutes. An audible alarm can be set to sound when a car's parking time has expired. The timer may also be used for timing baby's formula, phone calls and cooking.

Science News Letter, January 23, 1960

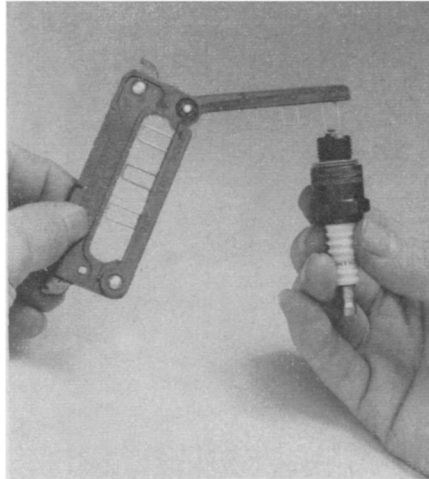
**VERNIER CALIPER** eliminates the troublesome parallax of the standard type instrument by using a flush type Vernier. Reading is easier, faster and more accurate. Made entirely of stainless steel, it is designed for outside, inside and depth measuring and has a maximum capacity of 6¼ inches. Its overall length is 9½ inches.

Science News Letter, January 23, 1960

**PITCH PIPE-TIE CLASP** may also be clipped to a pocket or lapel and is also available as a ladies' pin. Available in standard pitches "A" or "C," it makes a good gift for music lovers, instrumentalists, singers and composers.

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**SPARK PLUG TOOL**, shown in the photograph, for auto mechanics incorporates an electrode adjuster, an electrode file, gap gauges and gasket rejector slots in a tough, grease-resistant plastic handle. Stainless steel gap gauges range from .015 to .040 inch



and the rejector slots are for ⅞-inch, and 18-, 14- and 10-millimeter sizes. The red tool is so lightweight it can be carried in a breast pocket.

Science News Letter, January 23, 1960

**TELEPHONE SPEAKER** enables you to listen or speak from anywhere in the room, leaving your hands free for other tasks such as jotting down notes and checking files. By cradling the telephone receiver in the tran-

sistorized, battery-operated, portable speaker, an incoming call will be amplified to be heard within a 30-foot radius.

Science News Letter, January 23, 1960

**CRIB PAD**, quilted with soft polyester fiberfill, cushions the mattress as well as protects it. The pad may be readily washed and dried by hand or machine without the cushioning layer becoming lumpy or matting down. It is available in bassinet and standard crib sizes.

Science News Letter, January 23, 1960

**WELDING KIT** contains eight diameters of carbon rods, three thicknesses of carbon plate, a can of carbon paste, a can of surface-protection compound and an illustrated manual showing some of the applications of these materials to produce better welding.

Science News Letter, January 23, 1960

**LIQUID PROPORTIONER** of tough, transparent plastic will hold two gallons of material and treat up to 500 gallons of water without being refilled. Weighing only 15 pounds and attachable to any water line, it can easily disperse medications in water for poultry and livestock. It may also be used in hospitals, schools and industrial plants to disperse water-soluble soaps, sanitizers and disinfectants.

Science News Letter, January 23, 1960



## Nature Ramblings



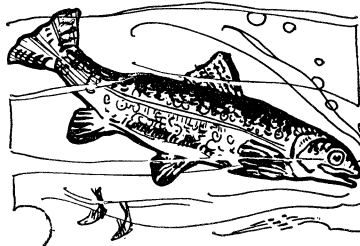
By BENITA TALL

**BIG FISHES** are expected to eat little fishes. This seems to be the law of the oceans, lakes and streams, where the smaller links in the food chain help to satisfy the hunger of the bigger links. Yet, a long look at a zoo or aquarium display will prove to you that this state of affairs certainly changes when assorted sizes of fishes live together in an aquarium tank.

Although cannibalism is commonplace in the free waterways, it is relatively unusual among captive fish. One answer to the "why" of this is that the specimens are well-fed by their keepers. The fishes' appetites are under control and the mortality rate is kept down. This is not the whole reason, however. What might be called "fish psychology" enters the picture.

When new fishes are first put into the "oceanarium" at Florida's Marineland Studios, they are chased and some of them are eaten, reports curator F. G. Wood Jr. The barracudas, tarpon and other large

### Piscine Psychology



predatory fishes always exact a sizable toll of smaller new arrivals. In the porpoise tank, too, the newcomers offer great sport. The porpoises appear to delight in chasing and catching them, although they are not always as interested in eating them as they are in playing with them, says Mr. Wood.

Any fishes that survive the first few days seem to become accepted members of the community. They may be picked off occasionally but they are no longer constantly pursued. As an example, Mr. Wood points

out that when several hundred fingerling mullets were put into an oceanarium, several dozen were still alive after six months. The big fishes rarely paid attention to them.

Another time, new bottom fishes—snappers, grunts and triggerfish—were placed in the porpoises' tank. The porpoises appeared to discriminate between the new additions and the original bottom fishes: the new ones were chased while the old ones were ignored.

Why this should be true is a puzzle that remains unsolved. A clue is the behavior of new fishes in strange surroundings. Their nervous, uncertain movements betray them. They will run from the slightest threat. There is a rather widespread "biological law" that he who runs gets chased, Mr. Wood suggests. Consequently, the new arrival is pursued and often eaten. When the newcomer feels at home, he does not seem to attract attention and thus is more likely to stay alive. Moral for fishes: Keep cool and stay alive.

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