

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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BUG GUN generates great clouds of insecticide fog that penetrate into cracks and crevices, indoors and out, to kill flies, mosquitoes, gnats, mites, roaches and many other pests. The fogging action depends on a propane gas heater that vaporizes the insecticide. With the gun, large yards, pool areas and tennis courts may be quickly rid of pests.

Science News Letter, April 23, 1960

SHOPPING COMPUTER figures costs for careful shoppers. By turning the computer's wheels, a shopper can find the cost per pound when total weight and total cost of an item is known or the cost of two to 15 ounces when the cost per pound is known.

Science News Letter, April 23, 1960

TOY BABY BATH SET includes eight-inch doll, bath, bassinet and covered diaper pail, all molded of plastic, for realistic play baths with soap and water. The doll drinks, wets, opens and closes its eyes.

Science News Letter, April 23, 1960

PLIABLE RECORDS, seen in the photograph, are not just unbreakable but so thin they may be rolled in a mailing tube. A European development, the seven-inch disk weighs only an eighth of an ounce and is



just four-thousandths of an inch thick. The records are available in 33, 45, and 78 rpm speeds.

Science News Letter, April 23, 1960

TRANSISTORIZED TREASURE FINDER requires just four flashlight batteries for an estimated receiver life of 2,500 hours and a transmitter life of 250 hours. With ten transistors and printed circuits through-

out, the instrument requires less electricity and is thus more economical to operate than tube instruments. Primarily for use on dry land, it will also detect metal under fresh water.

Science News Letter, April 23, 1960

LIGHT GOLF CART eliminates the usual golf bag and features thin aluminum tubes, each of which holds a single club. The cart rolls on two large one-foot wheels with tires of neoprene sponge. It can be readily collapsed for transportation and storage.

Science News Letter, April 23, 1960

BOARDING LADDER for small boats features handrails that rise high above the top step for safer boarding from the water. Made of aluminum tubing and waterproofed hardwood steps, the ladder folds up when not in use.

Science News Letter, April 23, 1960

AUTOMATIC FLY REEL spools line in at the touch of a foldaway trigger. Hand winding is eliminated. The reel features a safety button to prevent accidental reeling in of the line and a clutch that permits the line to be stripped easily while the spring is fully wound.

Science News Letter, April 23, 1960



Nature Ramblings

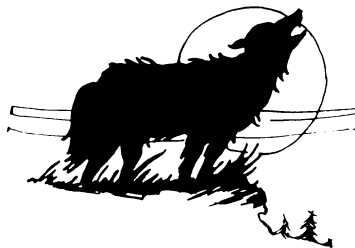


By HORACE LOFTIN

Fellow Travelers

THE ULTIMATE in peace and good will has been pictured as the lion lying down with the lamb. Possibly such a scene never has been, nor ever will be, observed in nature. But suppose we substitute a hungry coyote for the lion and a tender calf for the lamb. Such a combination seems equally improbable, but it has been seen!

Three biologists on a field trip in one of our western ranges came upon a small herd of cattle browsing in rather tall grass. From time to time they noted an odd-looking object appear above the grass near the outer portion of the herd. As the cattle moved toward the men, the object took on a dog-like form. Then it became obvious that this was a big coyote—perhaps 35 to 40 pounds of predatory animal—walking calmly along with the cattle. There were many calves in the herd, several quite near the coyote, but neither they nor their parents seemed concerned about their company.



The scientists noted that the coyote kept near the edge of the herd. He was seen craning his neck time after time, as if looking for something just beyond the cattle.

Indeed, this was just what he was doing. He was accompanying the cattle for the mice, rabbits and other small creatures that were disturbed and revealed by the movements of the herd. The movement of the cattle was furnishing the coyote with ample, tender fare gathered with minimum effort on his part.

If coyotes can feel gratitude, certainly

this well-fed beast showed it to his bovine companions. He left them unmolested, and they in turn showed no fear of him.

This action of the coyote reminds one of a similar habit of the cattle egret. This beautiful heron spends his days at the feet of cattle, waiting for them to kick up succulent grasshoppers or other juicy insects which he pounces on. Once strictly an Old World species, the cattle egret has mysteriously gained a foothold in North and South America within about the last 20 years. How it crossed the Atlantic, no one knows. But it is now a permanent and plentiful resident of the Florida cattle country and is seen northward at least to New Jersey.

The unusual thing about coyote-cattle cooperation is the fact that a predatory beast, the coyote, is using a potential meal, the cattle, as a means of getting other food. Animal cooperation is far from uncommon, though generally the animal that follows another is not a potential enemy of its companion.

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