

• New Machines and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 1050. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

LIQUID HAULER helps eliminate the problem of dead-head runs for trucks—returning empty on trips back to home base. Within 15 minutes after a dry-freight truck is empty, two men can inflate a pillow type rubber-coated container, and the truck can make a return trip with a liquid cargo. Special emphasis is placed on liquid edibles, such as milk, vegetable oils and fruit juices.

• Science News Letter, 78:80 July 30, 1960

HEAT DEFLECTOR designed for floor and wall heat registers provides better, cleaner heat distribution by deflecting heat toward the center of the room. The sooty furnace heat goes to the center and walls, draperies, ceilings and furnishings stay cleaner longer.

• Science News Letter, 78:80 July 30, 1960

SANITARY TOOTHBRUSH CABINET holds five toothbrushes inside a plastic container safe from dust-borne germs. The individual plastic doors work automatically. When a brush is pulled out, the door opens, and when the brush is put back the door closes behind it.

• Science News Letter, 78:80 July 30, 1960

THE EIFFEL TOWER, symbol of Paris and of France, is now available in a do-it-yourself kit. Produced under French supervision, the model, shown in the photograph, is complete in every detail, is



metallic colored and stands nearly three feet high when completed.

• Science News Letter, 78:80 July 30, 1960

MOTH-PROOF PAPER protects clothing and other woolen materials against moth damage. A highly effective paper for control of roaches, ants and other insects,

it is used to line closet shelves. The paper, carrying a printed design, is impregnated with an odorless insecticide harmless to humans and domestic animals.

• Science News Letter, 78:80 July 30, 1960

DOOR-PROTECTING DISKS prevent damage to thin, veneered doors from conventional door bumpers. If applied to the door with the self-contained adhesive, the disk protects the door from puncture by any protruding object. It also can be used on a plaster wall or on wall board to prevent damage to the wall from a door knob.

• Science News Letter, 78:80 July 30, 1960

ROLL-A-PLANT moves plants weighing up to 150 pounds easily on ball-bearing wheels without damage to floors and carpets. Eight inches in diameter, it will support floor plants of all shapes and sizes. The rolling holder is made of brass-coated wrought iron and will not tarnish or rust.

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HOME PLANETARIUM accurately projects more than 60 constellations on the walls and ceiling of any darkened room, with proper compensation for both time and space. The stars are projected as pinpoints of light through holes in a star sphere that is vacuum-formed, and made of light plastic.

• Science News Letter, 78:80 July 30, 1960



Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

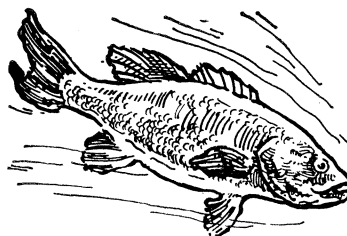
ALTHOUGH FLYCASTERS and other fishing lure purists may disdain the method, one of the surest ways to catch your limit of largemouth bass or other game fish is to use live bait. And to satisfy the demands of fishermen, millions of minnows are raised commercially in carefully regulated ponds throughout the nation.

Getting the best yield of minnows per acre of pond is serious business to bait producers, and they have learned to use some tricks that nature has been employing for millions of years. For example, two sizes of minnows are in demand: small ones for normal use, and super-sized minnows for the granddaddy bass.

Now the small and large minnows are all the same species and even the same age as a rule. How do the baitmen control the size of their minnows?

Following a clue from nature, they simply increase the number of fry per pond when

Nature and Numbers



they want small minnows and decrease the number for large minnows. When, for example, 100,000 young fish are placed in a pond, the food supply is short and the fish are stunted. But when only 1,000 are placed in the pond, and fed the same total amount of food, the young become "super-sized."

Though this simple procedure seems obvious enough, it is a lesson in wildlife conservation that we have been slow to recognize. For too many well-meaning persons, conservation means keeping alive

every single animal or plant that we can. The hunter or scientific collector is often viewed as the worst enemy of wildlife.

But if a given range or stream is overpopulated with deer or fish, continued preservation of a surplus can only lead to the ruin of the animals. To obtain the largest, healthiest population, you must limit its numbers.

Some years ago, on one of our great Federal preserves, a movement was started to "protect" a deer herd of about 4,000. Hunting was strictly prohibited, and large predators such as wolves, coyotes and pumas were ruthlessly destroyed. Indeed, the deer herd did increase with this treatment. In about 15 years, the herd numbered 100,000.

But with this many animals, the range was stripped of food. Within two years, some 50,000 deer died of starvation. Today, this herd is back to about its original size—the size the range can support.

• Science News Letter, 78:80 July 30, 1960