

# New Machines and Gadgets

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⚙️ **CIGARETTE SPACER**, an automatic cigarette case that will not open except at pre-set times, is designed to curb chain smoking. The smoker may pre-set the smoking interval at from 10 minutes to an hour. Once the lid is closed, it will not reopen until the interval has elapsed.

• Science News Letter, 78:270 October 22, 1960

⚙️ **LIGHT, PORTABLE DISHWASHER** fits on a kitchen counter and operates, without electricity, by water pressure at the faucet. No installation is required. The unit features a patented spinner that sends jet sprays of detergent and hot water about as it moves at hundreds of revolutions a minute. The whole unit weighs 11 pounds.

• Science News Letter, 78:270 October 22, 1960

⚙️ **AUTOMOBILE RECORD PLAYER**, made in the Netherlands, plays regular 45 rpm records. The player fits in any car and uses the car radio system for amplification. Power comes from the car battery. To play the phonograph, a record is inserted into a slot and all operations thereafter are automatic.

• Science News Letter, 78:270 October 22, 1960

⚙️ **CONTACT LENS INSERTER**, shown in the photograph, has two rollers that hold eyelids apart while pressure on a lever brings lens, in a rubber cup, into contact



with the eye's cornea. The instrument is less than seven inches long and is said to overcome the difficulty many people have in putting a foreign body, the lens, into the eye.

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⚙️ **SILVER HOLLOWARE FINISH** prevents tarnish and eliminates polishing for

years—better and longer than lacquers now in use. The new finish is made of a silicone material that sticks to silver with unusual tenacity. It is being applied at the factory on new silver pieces but will also be available in a spray can for home use.

• Science News Letter, 78:270 October 22, 1960

⚙️ **EYEGLASS IDENTIFICATIONS**, tiny bands that adhere to the insides of the temples of eyeglasses, are engraved in gold. A name and phone number fit on one band, an address fits on the other. As many as 34 characters may be inscribed on each strip.

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⚙️ **FAMILY TREES**, silver-plated or brass, hold family pictures in frames dangling from the tree limbs. The silver-plated tree is nine inches tall and holds eight frames. The six-inch brass tree holds five frames. A brass desk set holds two pictures.

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⚙️ **BANTAM POSTAGE METER**, weighing only five pounds, will stamp packages direct, while competitive machines stamp a tape which must then be placed on the package. The meter also stamps letters, of course, and may be used to imprint free postmark advertising along with the stamp value.

• Science News Letter, 78:270 October 22, 1960



## Nature Ramblings



As the seasonal nip in the air sets the plant kingdom to yawning for winter sleep, perhaps the brightest spots in the autumn-colored hills are the blazing sumacs.

All species turn artist, dealing especially in deep orange-reds and wine-crimsons, whether the fuzzy-boughed staghorn sumac of moist places, the roundish-leaved fragrant sumac of starved soils and gravelly roadsides, the wing-twiggd dwarf sumac of the uplands, or the flat-twiggd, jagged-leaved smooth sumac of the open fields.

Even the misanthropic poison sumac, distinguished by the combination of smooth-edged leaves and round, smooth twigs, forgets its knavery and develops at least an appearance of royalty.

The poison ivy, a true sumac, also changes its innocent-looking but treacherous green for a wry smile in motley yellow and scarlet.

The color change in these poisonous species renders them less dangerous than at any other time except, of course, during the leafless winter months.

Besides being a most pleasing sight to

### Sumac



the human eye, the sumacs are a much-sought food source for wild animals during the winter.

Pheasant, mourning dove, ruffed and sharptail grouse, bobwhite and skunk delight in the dense clusters of hard little fruits, here in the benign sumacs and white in the poison varieties. The twigs are cropped by moose, deer and cottontail rabbit.

—GLORIA BALL

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## Do You Know

As an alloy with copper, beryllium results in the highest strength copper-based alloy.

In 1948, 86% of the household cleaners sold were soap or soap-based; now the synthetic detergents, both liquid and powders, account for 78% of the household cleaners sold in the U. S.

The most widely used game bird on shooting preserves is the ring-necked pheasant.

More than 90% of the nursing homes in the United States are operated under private commercial ownership.

There are six major species of quail in the U. S.: Bobwhite, Gambel or Desert, Valley or California, Mountain, Scales and Massena or Mearn's quail.

Free Europe is expected to nearly triple its synthetic rubber capacity in the next two years.