

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **ODORLESS MARKING APPLICATOR** is guaranteed to be completely free of any annoying or contaminating odor. It dries instantly on porous surfaces and is smudge-proof, waterproof and indelible on any surface. The chisel-edged felt-nib permits broad or fine strokes. The marker is guaranteed for 49,000 inches of writing.

• Science News Letter, 78:368 December 3, 1960

⚙️ **CANDLE ADAPTER** firmly secures a candle in the holder regardless of difference in size of candlestick hole and candle. The reusable "candle stabilizers" are small, white, felt-like discs, 1½ inches in diameter, and come 24 to a package.

• Science News Letter, 78:368 December 3, 1960

⚙️ **METAL WINDOW EASE** is a liquid that makes metal windows easy to open and close. It comes in a plastic squeeze dispenser and works equally well in hot or cold weather, leaving no residue. The liquid is odorless, non-flammable, harmless and stainless.

• Science News Letter, 78:368 December 3, 1960

⚙️ **CORDLESS ELECTRIC CARVER**, shown in the photograph, makes carving a fowl or roast easy. The battery-powered motor is in the handle, with no cord to get in the way. The serrated stainless steel blade makes 7,200 cutting movements a



minute. Set comes with carving board, batteries, easy-grip power handle, two blades (carving and slicing) and three "how-to-carve" booklets.

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⚙️ **SELF-POWERED "PHONE,"** about the size of a home movie camera, sends voice messages hundreds of yards on a beam of invisible infrared radiation. The 26-ounce

unit is "aimed" like a camera at another unit and operates anywhere in line-of-sight, day or night. Powered by flashlight batteries, it provides confidential communication in crowds, regardless of noise, and is not subject to FCC regulations.

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⚙️ **BOWLING BAG** is designed to keep bowling ball and shoes securely in place; each is fitted into a special recess. The case looks like fine luggage. Its scuff-proof, rigid sides are said to protect ball and shoes better than flexible bowling bags.

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⚙️ **DIAL THERMOMETER** can be read as easily as a wrist watch and is unbreakable. Imported from Switzerland, the stainless steel thermometer accurately records oral or rectal body temperature on an easy-to-read dial face. It is unnecessary to shake it down as a re-set button returns it to zero automatically.

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⚙️ **AUTOMATIC LIGHT CONTROL** is a photocell in a clear, butyrate plastic case. It automatically turns outdoor post lanterns on at dusk and off at dawn. Pre-wired for easy installation, it operates within a temperature range of minus 35 degrees to 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

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## Nature Ramblings



➤ EVERY BOY has to have a pocket knife. This is one of the fundamental facts and indisputable rights of growing up. A pocket knife is a boy's companion and chief tool. It is his means of poking, cutting, probing, digging and otherwise examining each day's new discoveries.

A great scientist and a great friend of boys, Dr. David Fairchild, has suggested another such indispensable tool for boyhood: a small hand lens.

Small enough to fit snugly into the corner of a crowded pocket, yet powerful enough to magnify a bee's stinger five to ten times, it is a wonder that the hand lens has not already taken its place as necessary to being all boy. It is the perfect complement of the jackknife for helping keen young minds explore the world of nature.

Under the magnifying power of a hand lens, a simple flower becomes a complex and fascinating organ. There are stamens and pistils and their parts to be discovered—perhaps for the first time. This leads to wonder, and the pocket knife comes into

### A Big Look for a Small Boy



play. The flower is dissected and the hidden ovules are discovered in the base of the pistil. Pollen is seen for the first time as something more than a yellow powder.

And pollen is seen on a bee's leg. Looking at a bee under the hand lens, a boy will see the many hairs and other structures whose express function is that of gathering this pollen. From the pollen-laden legs then to other parts of the insect's body: the breathing openings along the abdomen, the

many mouthparts, the jointed antenna, the complex eyes.

This is the start. From here on, everything must be seen under magnification. There are a hundred plants and insects to examine. Feathers and hair will be scrutinized.

Wood whittled by the pocket knife will now be studied as to its texture and design. Particles of sand, clay and loam will become familiar, and in the boy's mind the relationship between fertility, soil structure and soil composition will take form.

The natural curiosity of youth, sharpened by an instrument that makes close observation both practical and exciting, is bound to lead to the habit of looking closely and asking questions of the natural world.

The habit may well carry over into other important phases of life. In any event, a boy with a pocket knife and a hand lens is a boy who is ready for the adventures of each day in the exciting realm of nature.

—HORACE LOFTIN

• Science News Letter, 78:368 December 3, 1960