

INVENTION

Highway Safety Devices And "Cool" Suit Patented

➤ PERSONS TRAVELING on their vacations with a trailer attached to the car can now have a much safer trip, according to one patent issued in Washington, D. C.

The patent, No. 2,966,965, awarded to Carlyle B. Stair of Glendale, Calif., provides a brake that would immediately stop the trailer in case it accidentally is separated from the car while in motion. At the time car and trailer become uncoupled, pressurized gas is automatically released from a cartridge, attached to the trailer, exerting pressure on a cylinder piston. The piston then transmits a braking force to the trailer brakes.

Another highway safety device won patent No. 2,966,877 for William G. Konold and John A. Finken, both of Falls Church, Va. Their invention, assigned to George Mingle of Columbus, Ohio, is an improved, portable signal device that warns approaching motorists of a dangerous accident or a washed out bridge ahead.

The cars would drive over a tripping mechanism across the road that would blow a horn or siren and also light up a warning light in the portable unit. The horn or siren is energized from a supply of gas under pressure. When the device is tripped, a valve opens permitting the gas to pass over a diaphragm, vibrating it in such a way as to generate the warning sound.

Other patents awarded include new alloys highly resistant to heat for possible use in jet engines. The alloys, patented by James F. Baldwin of New York City, also resist scaling, rusting and other forms of deterioration from oxidation at high temperatures.

The alloys, containing varying amounts of carbon, iron, chromium, tungsten and cobalt, are hardened by heating to temperatures between 1,800 and 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit and then rapidly cooled by dousing them with water. This hardness makes the alloys ideally suited for materials of the high temperature jet age, it is claimed in patent No. 2,967,103.

A suit that protects a human from extremely high temperatures won patent No. 2,966,684 for John H. Bonin of Chicago. Besides providing insulation from high temperatures, the outfit also cools and conditions the person wearing it. Air under pressure is fed through tubes lining the entire suit, removing any heat that passed through the insulating material. The air, which also picks up the moisture in perspiration from the body, is then exhaled through openings in the suit.

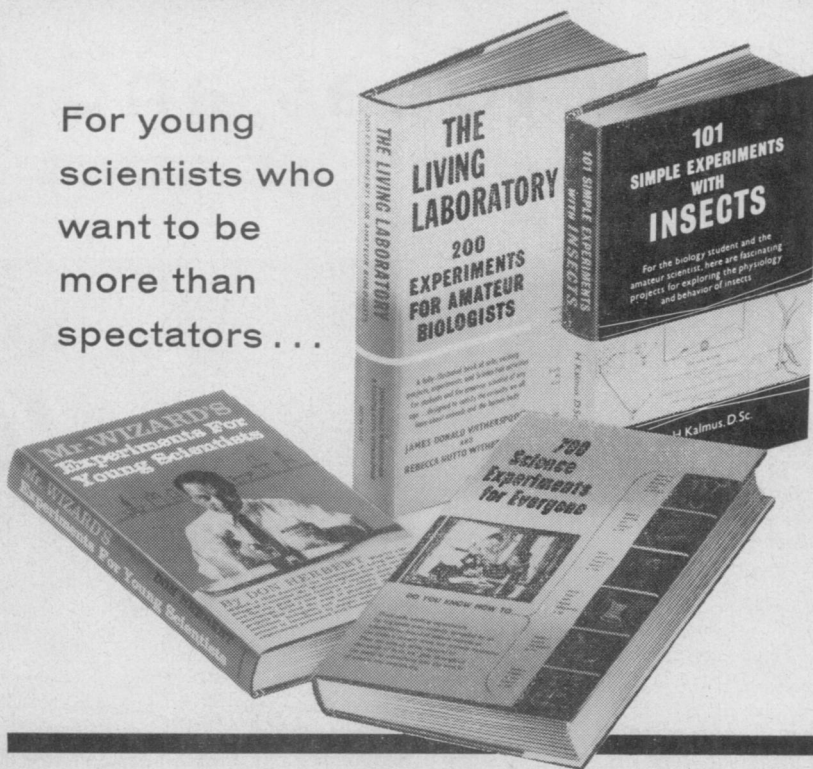
Patent rights on the invention were assigned to the United States of America as represented by the Secretary of the Army.

One way to keep the next door neighbor's chickens from eating all the seeds in your garden is to sprinkle some food containing the bird repellent of patent No. 2,967,128.

Morley R. Kare of Ithaca, N. Y., has developed a flavor compound that is completely distasteful to birds, but, surprisingly, pleasing to humans.

• Science News Letter, 79:47 January 21, 1961

For young scientists who want to be more than spectators...



OUTSTANDING BOOKS OF EXPERIMENTS FROM DOUBLEDAY



THE LIVING LABORATORY 200 Experiments for Amateur Biologists

James D. and Rebecca H. Witherspoon, Department of Biology, Western Maryland College. This illustrated book of safe, interesting, straightforward projects and experiments provides dynamic demonstrations in all major areas of biology. Students determine their blood types by analysis; investigate intricate social behavior of ants; excite nerves and muscles of lower animals electrically, etc. Valuable appendices, index, 109 drawings. \$3.95

101 SIMPLE EXPERIMENTS WITH INSECTS

H. Kalmus, D.Sc., University College, London. An engaging collection of practical projects involving insect metabolism, digestion, locomotion, respiration, etc. Students learn basic biological principles from their first-hand observation of the physiology and behavior of all common insects. Additional notes, appendices, bibliography, index, 39 illustrations. \$2.95

700 SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS FOR EVERYONE

Compiled by UNESCO. Experienced science teachers from many countries provide easy, student-tested experiments for youngsters of all ages. The experiments — which can be performed in the home using simple everyday materials — introduce light, heat, weather, astronomy, sound, electricity, animal life, etc. With an introduction by Gerald Wendt. 550 illustrations. \$3.00

MR. WIZARD'S EXPERIMENTS FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS

Don Herbert. With TV's Mr. Wizard as his guide, the young experimenter can learn how to measure the sun, grow whole families of crystals, make his or her own microscope, build a new kind of ant colony, and perform many other projects involving the work of physicists, chemists, mathematicians, biologists and meteorologists. With color drawings, photos, and easy step-by-step directions. \$2.95

At all booksellers • DOUBLEDAY & COMPANY, INC. • Garden City, N. Y.