

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **ELECTRONIC LIGHT SWITCH** makes it possible to install a light or appliance switch wherever desired in about 15 minutes without damage to walls or ceilings. The control box of the do-it-yourself unit is plugged into a wall plug; the light or appliance to be operated is plugged into the control box; special tape connected to the control box is applied to the switch site. Touch the tape, the switch turns on. Another touch, it turns off.

• Science News Letter, 79:111 February 18, 1961

⚙️ **TROUSER HANGER** of durable, leather-textured plastic holds trousers securely by the cuffs and completely eliminates hanger marks. Ideal for travel as well as home use, the slim envelope-type hanger fits all suit-carrying luggage and is available in six colors.

• Science News Letter, 79:111 February 18, 1961

⚙️ **CAR TRAY** with automatic coin dispenser for parking meter or toll charges fits any dashboard and is designed to hold cigarettes, tissues, glasses, and also maps or memos. The dashboard tray is made of lightweight aluminum and simulated leather.

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⚙️ **EGG BEATER**, shown in the photograph, with rounded side handle provides a comfortable natural grip for effortless beating and is available in a deluxe model with



an exclusive hang-up hole in the handle for easy storage. Plastic crank handles in black or beige are elongated for firmer gripping and are heat resistant to withstand dishwashers.

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⚙️ **WINDOW SHEETING** of plastic applied to glassed window areas admits sunlight without glare and may be custom-cut to required size. To apply, merely wet

window, press sheeting against it, and squeegee out excess water. Sheeting is washable, long-wearing, and resistant to moisture, mildew, oils, tearing and cracking. It is available in a variety of colors.

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⚙️ **RUST PREVENTIVE PAINT**, for use with new or rusted metal, provides a special protective enamel-like coating that will penetrate deep into metal pores. Available in 10 colors, the paint can be used alone or over a primer. It dries dust-free in one to two hours and enamel-hard overnight.

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⚙️ **THIN-LEAD PENCIL** holds lead .02 inch in diameter. The very thin leads wear down evenly, assuring crisp lines which never vary in width. Packaged in plastic, the .02-lead pencil comes with a 24-lead dispenser.

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⚙️ **POOL SANITIZER** kills algae, bacteria and fungi in swimming pools without irritating skin or eyes. A combination of fatty acid derivatives, the agent is effective in hard or soft water and is non-corrosive to pools and equipment. It also will assist in the removal of floating debris by holding it on the surface of water.

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Nature Ramblings

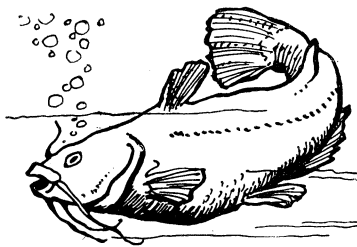


► IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED that our national bird, the bald eagle, may not be an appropriate symbol for this country. He tends to be a bully, robbing ospreys and other birds of their hard earned food. Just now the bald eagle is having a hard time avoiding extinction, which is not exactly the symbolic picture we like to have of the nation.

Among nominations for a replacement for our national animal is the sturdy, individualistic catfish. Left alone, he is content to rest in peace with the world. Threatened, his awesome barbs come up and he is the living picture of defense. And after all, what could be more 100% American than a catfish?

The truth is that every continent in the world except frigid Antarctica can boast a population of catfish. For sheer quantity in kinds and numbers, however, South America must be ranked as the catfish capital of the world.

Viva El Catfish!



North America has only two families of fresh water catfish and another salt water group. There are no native catfishes in our Far West, although some have been artificially introduced. Africa has nine families with about 250 species. Europe and Asia have about that many families together but perhaps a smaller number of species.

South America, on the other hand, has 12 distinct families of catfishes, totaling

about 1,000 different species. This great diversity of catfish makes up half of the fresh water fishes found in all of South America.

The casual turista probably would not recognize many of the South American catfishes as belonging to the same group he knows from our own muddy rivers. The tropical forms range in size from tiny to gigantic, and many resemble pictures of bony-plated, prehistoric fishes that swam the rivers and seas of millions of years ago.

One catfish of South American rivers is measured in feet and weighs in hundreds of pounds.

It is not necessary to go south of the border to see some of these catfishes. The beautiful little scavenger catfishes, so common in tropical fish aquaria, are South American.

—HORACE LOFTIN

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