

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **PORTABLE PUMP** with self-contained power supply and built-in battery recharger is ideal for boat owners and campers as well as the average householder. Housed in durable plastic, the automatic pump runs for seven hours without recharging and pumps three gallons per minute.

• Science News Letter, 79:320 May 20, 1961

⚙️ **OUTBOARD MOTOR OIL** reduces fouling of spark plugs in high-output two-cycle engines. Designed for use with regular-grade leaded gasolines, the oil is ideal for 35- to 80-horsepower motors. It is also useful for power lawn mowers, chain saws and motor scooters.

• Science News Letter, 79:320 May 20, 1961

⚙️ **FACE PROTECTOR** of aluminum and rubber with adjustable elastic headband is ideal for guarding against black eyes and banged-up noses during small-ball sports. It weighs only two ounces and it is worn much the same as eyeglasses and provides full freedom of vision.

• Science News Letter, 79:320 May 20, 1961

⚙️ **SMOKE OVEN** for outdoor cooking is the modern way to produce gourmet flavors of smoked meats in an hour or less. All-weather, all-season cooker protects fire and food from elements. Food is flavored as hot smoke is channeled up chimney. Oven,



shown in the photograph, stands 40 inches high and has capacity enough to prepare a 15-pound roast or turkey. It can be converted for charcoal grilling.

• Science News Letter, 79:320 May 20, 1961

⚙️ **HOME GYMNASIUM** of aluminum weighs only 39 pounds and also serves as a rest table. It can be adjusted to more than

500 positions for relaxation in elevated, arched or horizontal postures. Such positions, through gravity, are intended to improve circulation while overcoming fatigue. It also provides support for push-ups and other exercise.

• Science News Letter, 79:320 May 20, 1961

⚙️ **DOUBLE-FACED TAPE** that is sticky on both sides binds two surfaces together. Housed in a convenient dispenser, the tape replaces liquid glue in many instances and can be used to mount photographs or stamps and splice pieces of paper.

• Science News Letter, 79:320 May 20, 1961

⚙️ **STREAMLINED BICYCLE** is constructed of glass fiber and plastic. The glass fiber forms actual load-bearing frame and connection structure. All mechanical parts are enclosed to prevent rusting, and chain hazards are eliminated. The bicycle is lightweight but strong and durable.

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⚙️ **MOVIE CAMERA** has reflex electric eye that sees only what the lens sees. It is not affected by light outside the field of view. The new 8 mm camera also has through-the-lens viewfinding and focusing. Its electric-powered zoom lens has two speeds. Roll-film and magazine-load models are available.

• Science News Letter, 79:320 May 20, 1961



## Nature Ramblings



## Do You Know?

➤ **SNAILS**, the quaint and curious creatures that carry their houses on their backs, have been objects of interest to generations of children and their elders as well.

"Slow as a snail" is proverbial, but in justice, "patient as a snail" should be added, for these leisurely travelers can make surprisingly long journeys if given enough time.

Snails are molluscs, a zoological phylum that includes such diverse creatures as oysters, clams, cuttlefish, rock limpets and chitons. They are classified as gastropods, which means stomach-foot because the broad, flat muscular pad, or foot, on which it moves is the most prominent thing about the lower part of the snail's body.

Plastered firmly on the rock or plant stem, the snail progresses by a succession of rhythmic waves in this foot. The waves start at the rear and slowly push through to the front, and each wave sets the snail forward a fraction of an inch.

One of the most intriguing aspects of the

### Snails



snail is its stalked eyes, which are quickly pulled back into the body when touched. These eyes are very primitive in structure and are believed to do little more than distinguish light from darkness and detect motion in nearby bodies.

Some snails have a little oval trapdoor on the upper rear side of their bodies. It fits the opening of their shells so exactly that when they withdraw into their houses for safety, the trap door serves as an extra barricade.

For some reason, most snail shells coil to the right, but a few coil to the left, as in the illustration above.

• Science News Letter, 79:320 May 20, 1961

The price of *water* in the United States ranges from \$50 to \$300 for every million gallons.

Some *viruses* remain harmless in human tissue for many years, and then suddenly become actively dangerous.

California produces about one-third of the *apricots* grown in the world.

*Seasickness* in violent weather is one of the chief menaces to survival at sea after a shipwreck, trials by British authorities in the Atlantic during the past winter have shown.

Nuclear *submarines* can now operate routinely under the polar ice with sonar and other electronic aids providing ability to avoid downward projecting ice formations and icebergs in open water.

• Science News Letter, 79:320 May 20, 1961