

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 1097. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

☛ **MUSICAL SAVINGS BANK** has a clown that jiggles up and down to a tune when a coin is inserted. Gaily decorated in yellow, red and blue with a circus background, the bank is 6 inches high and 5¼ inches wide. When full, money is removed by unlocking bank bottom.

• Science News Letter, 79:396 June 24, 1961

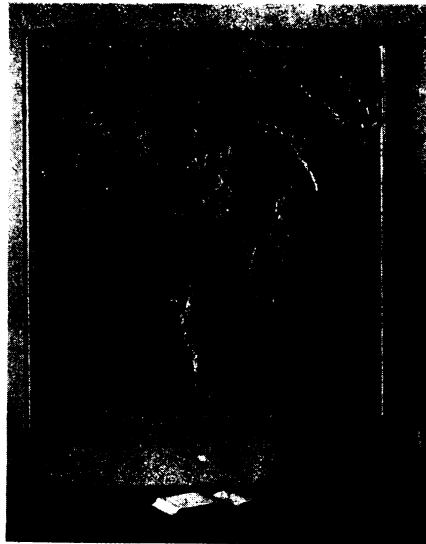
☛ **WIRELESS INTERCOM** for office or plant needs no wire installation. Just plug in the portable units where needed and talk. Intercoms have locking lever for dictation and a speaker that picks up normal conversation up to 20 feet. As many as eight additional units may be used without sacrificing voice quality.

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☛ **SWIMMING POOL ENCLOSURE**, a low-pressure nylon shelter, provides a year-round pool shelter. It can also be used, among other things, for boat storage, emergency hospitals or field offices. The anchored-down shelter is inflated by a constant stream of low pressure air from a blower, acting also as an air-conditioning system. Available in varying sizes and plastic coatings, the single walled building can be installed in four hours.

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☛ **AFRICAN MAP**, shown in the photograph, is a timely bold relief map of an important region of the world. Made of



plastic strong enough to step on, the 45-by-49-inch map, showing the 47 African nations, has nearly 1,500 geographical names. Mountains, plateaus and deserts are clearly shown. The map scale is one inch equals 126 miles.

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☛ **ANTISEPTIC SPRAY** in an aerosol can treats minor cuts and burns, and relieves the discomfort of poison ivy, sunburn and

insect bites. Sprayed onto the wound, it provides a transparent plastic bandage while relieving pain. Described as a first-aid kit in a can, the antiseptic is especially useful on boats, in automobiles, picnic kits, fishing and camping gear.

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☛ **HYDRAULIC JACK** for sagging floors or concrete slabs can lift more than four tons. Weighing only six pounds, the 9-inch-high jack with a 6½-inch lift also has wide use in garages and by truck owners.

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☛ **FREEZE-DRIED FOODS** let outdoorsmen include beef steaks, pork chops and other meats in their outdoor meals. Reduced to as much as one-third their original weight, the freeze-dried foods need no refrigeration and are quickly prepared by adding water and heating. These foods can be stored for many months and can be used in freezing to semi-tropical climates.

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☛ **FLASHLIGHT POINTER** pinpoints minute detail on motion picture or slide projector screens without the lecturer getting in the way, marking the film or having other inconveniences. The pointer, which projects a sharply visible arrow on the screen, is useful for teachers, coaches, photo exhibitors and salesmen.

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## Nature Ramblings



## Do You Know?

► THE WALL-EYED PIKE is, in a way, a piscine orphan, for it is not a pike at all. It does have the long pike-like head and jaws with many pointed canine teeth. But it actually belongs to the perch family, and unlike the pikes has two dorsal fins, the front one having spines and the back one with soft rays.

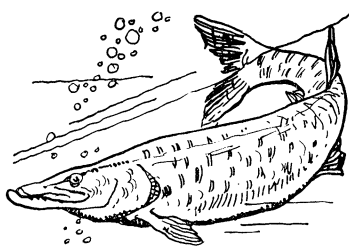
Within the family, it is more closely related to the darters than to the true perches.

The fish is known by 20 different common names, and about 30 years ago the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries suggested that "pikeperch" be adopted as the more or less "official" common name. It caught on to a certain extent, but apparently "wall-eyed pike" was too firmly entrenched. In the latest checklist, the American Fisheries Society lists the fish as "walleye."

In spite of its half-pike/half-perch characteristics, the walleye is worthy of esteem. His firm, flaky white flesh makes excellent eating. A mature fish will measure three feet and weigh between 10 and 15 pounds.

Although found to a certain extent in

### Wall-Eyed Pike



streams, the walleye is by choice a lake fish. It is found from Lake Champlain westward throughout the Great Lakes region and is particularly abundant in Lake Erie. From this northern range it swims fresh waters as far south as Georgia and Alabama.

Ordinarily the walleye spends its summer in six to 20 feet of water and usually feeds at night, mostly on smaller fish or crawfish.

The most successful baits for the walleye, experts say, are minnows, worms, crawfish and lamprey eels. Man-made lures apparently are inferior for catching walleye.

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Dislike for the odor or taste of coffee may indicate a woman's pregnancy.

Space flights for years to come will be charted from timetables now being planned by scientists.

The action of natural hormone ACTH can be reproduced in man with a synthetic molecule representing about half the natural hormone.

Lightning kills 600 persons, injures 1,500 and causes more than \$125,000,000 worth of property fire loss and damage each year in the United States.

A new filtered white light system for aircraft cockpits will enable pilots flying at night to distinguish color on instruments and maps.

At least 10% to 15% of the heart attacks occurring in the United States do not produce any symptoms.

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