

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **KING-SIZE CAN OPENER** with a wooden handle slashes a triangular hole four times as big as other openers. Not much larger overall than other can openers, it has an augmented cutting area of hardened steel.

• Science News Letter, 80:96 August 5, 1961

⚙️ **MANUAL-MAGNETIC RETRIEVER** will pick up various articles, tools, screws, etc., that have dropped into inaccessible places. It consists of a flexible shaft 13 inches long with a wire-clawed plunger operated at the handle end. A strong magnet can be gripped by the claws and brought into contact with ferrous metal objects that cannot be seized by the claws.

• Science News Letter, 80:96 August 5, 1961

⚙️ **PUSH-BUTTON STARTER** equips a new ready-to-fly, gas-engine-powered model plane, giving it safety advantages. Located just behind the propeller and protruding through the underside of the nose, the starter is a ¼-inch-diameter rod, 1¼ inches long. To start, the rod is pushed up, the propeller wound, and the rod pushed down. The propeller whirls to fire the engine.

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⚙️ **SAFETY GOGGLES** of butyrate plastic protect eyes at jobs where flying particles or objects are a hazard. The lightweight goggles, shown in the photograph, resist



impact and scratches, and fit snugly over the face and prescription glasses, if worn. Available in green or clear plastic, the goggles also have ventilation holes to prevent fogging.

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⚙️ **BUSINESS CARD HOLDER** is a six-ring, 7¼ by 5½-inch plastic binder for hold-

ing business cards and other records. It contains 23 indexed clear plastic pages divided into three separate compartments that will hold cards up to 3½ by 2½ inches in size. Cards will not fall out even if binder is held upside down or shaken. Additional pages can be added.

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⚙️ **TRANSISTOR TABLE RADIO** that can be placed where a line cord would be inconvenient has its own accessory brackets for hanging on the wall. The compact, six-transistor set operates for 600 hours on a nine-volt battery pack. One model has an electric razor-type cord so it can also be used with electric outlet.

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⚙️ **PICTURE-STAMP** enables a person to stamp a photograph of himself on stationery, greeting card or advertising material. A new type of rubber stamp, it can be obtained by submitting a snapshot to the manufacturer.

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⚙️ **SONAR SUB HUNT GAME** to try and test tricky tactics of attack and fleet deployment in the living room includes movable periscopes, submarines, mines, radar screen, counters for scoring, depth charge counter dial, and full playing instructions.

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Nature Ramblings



Do You Know?

► THE MOURNFUL howl of the coyote, punctuated by the yapping of half-grown pups, long has been a familiar evening sound in the plains and foothills areas. During the last 50 years the sound has moved toward the northeast until today thousands of coyotes are firmly established in the Adirondack Mountains and the New England area.

The push was made not by the small coyote of the West, but by one of the largest coyote subspecies, *Canis latrans thomasi*, or the brush wolf, the New York Zoological Society reported.

To a certain extent, the success of the coyotes, both large and small, is due to the coyote's character, or lack of it. He is quite a coward, where his larger cousin, the timber wolf, has been less afraid of man and has fallen into traps and remained in sight long enough to get shot. The coyote, with more discretion and no valor at all unless absolutely cornered, has slunk away at the first sight or scent of man.

At times, although not so frequently as

Coyote



is generally believed, coyotes will down a deer, and they are a costly nuisance where chickens and young lambs are concerned.

There are, however, two roles in which the coyote is distinctly useful. One is as a scavenger, for the coyote is less discriminating than the wolf and is not above sharing a chance carcass with buzzards and crows.

He is also a beneficial predator of field pests. Probably the major part of the coyote's diet consists of wild rodents such as marmots, prairie dogs and field mice.

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Germanium and silicon are currently the most important inorganic *semi-conductors*.

Imports of *steel* have exceeded exports since December, 1958.

The *sea lamprey* in the upper Great Lakes has been held responsible for the virtual disappearance of lake trout.

All *leaves* on the corn plants contribute to total crop yield.

The swing in the *eating* habits of Asians is now to Western food because it is easier and quicker to prepare.

Though *hawks* are by nature aggressive, greedy animals, the male, during the period of courtship and incubation, feeds the female.

Heavy *coffee drinkers* are inclined to have headaches and feel sluggish when it is withdrawn.

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