

coal, oil shale, oil and natural gas, in a region by region survey with projections to 1965.

TEACHING BY MACHINE—Lawrence M. Stolurrow—*Office of Educ. (GPO)*, 173 p., illus., paper, 65¢. Monograph examines the potentialities of auto-instructional materials as aids to more economical and efficient solutions to educational problems.

TEACHING HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE: A Sourcebook for the Physical Sciences—Alexander Joseph and others—*Harcourt*, 674 p., \$7.95. Offers a wide variety of demonstration and laboratory procedures, and suggestions for projects and experiments, suitable for many science courses.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE SECOND PRAGUE CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION THEORY, STATISTICAL DECISION FUNCTIONS, RANDOM PROCESSES—V. E. Benes and others; J. Kozesnik, Ed.—*Czechoslovak Acad. of Sciences (Academic Press)*, 843 p., illus., \$22. Contains papers given by European, U.S. and U.S.S.R. experts.

INVENTIONS

Patents of the Week

A photographic system that records the bomb damage after a nuclear attack, a spraying device for painting flagpoles and a folding fire ladder have been patented.

➤ **AN AUTOMATIC** photographic system that photographs the amount of bomb damage after a nuclear attack has been patented.

The high-flying camera unit snaps a series of pictures during the brief time between the explosion's bright flash and the formation of the deadly mushroom cloud, inventor George W. Goddard, Chevy Chase, Md., stated in patent No. 2,998,762. Rights were assigned to Bulova Research and Development Laboratories, Inc., Woodside, N. Y.

When a bomb is released from the airplane, a timing mechanism opens the lens shutter while simultaneously closing the lens port with a dense filter and capping plate to prevent pre-exposure while the camera is in the "ready" position. The plate is automatically raised just before the explosion.

The atomic explosion's bright flash is recorded by a photo-cell, which raises the filter and a series of pictures are snapped.

The camera is mounted in the airplane's nose and has a wide-angle lens necessary for the large destructive radius of atomic bombs. The increased damaged area and the nature of the after effects have made conventional strike and bomb damage assessment techniques useless in the nuclear environment, the inventor stated.

The days of the flagpole sitting painter are numbered, according to patent No. 2,998,801. Arthur F. Edelberg, Cleveland, Ohio, has invented a spray painting device that is raised or lowered on the halyard of the flagpole. Patent rights were assigned to Kamco Products, Inc., also of Cleveland.

The box-like device which wraps around the pole is hoisted to the top. Spray guns are then turned on while the painting unit is lowered by gravity and controlled by the halyard. Bristle brushes located at both ends of the casing smooth the sprayed

LA VICTORIA: An Early Site of the Pacific Coast of Guatemala—Michael D. Coe—*Peabody Mus.*, Vol. 53, 162 p., illus., \$11; paper, \$6.50. Analysis of cultural materials excavated in an early village site, including many figurine heads of the Conchas phase.

VOICES IN STONE: The Decipherment of Ancient Scripts and Writings—Ernst Doblhofer, transl. from German by Mervin Savill—*Viking*, 327 p., illus., \$6. Austrian philologist's work explains for the layman, with the help of many illustrations, the procedures followed by specialists in the decipherment of scripts of the past.

WHEELS, SAILS AND WINGS: The Story of Transportation—Fred Dietrich and Seymour Reit—*Golden Press*, 100 p., illus. by Harold Bukor and others, \$3.95. Large-scale picture book shows boys and girls how man attempts to conquer time and space.

• Science News Letter, 80:212 September 23, 1961

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