

# • 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 1118. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

☛ **VACUUM-CUP SOAP HOLDER** is a thin flexible red, blue or green rubber disk with tiny vacuum cups on each surface. The cups secure the holder to the side of the sink or other convenient place and the wet soap is simply pressed against the holder where it will remain, even vertically.

• Science News Letter, 80:342 November 18, 1961

☛ **URETHANE SPONGE** has two special silicone additives that give it a pore structure similar to that of natural sponges. Tough but soft, flexible, abrasion resistant and highly absorbent, the sponge is practical for heavy-duty uses.

• Science News Letter, 80:342 November 18, 1961

☛ **SLIDE PROJECTOR** simulates the continuity of movies by letting one slide slowly fade away from the screen as another takes its place. The remote control unit, which has a 12-foot cord, can arrest the "fadeover" of the slides at any point to obtain special effects.

• Science News Letter, 80:342 November 18, 1961

☛ **HOSE CLAMP TOOL** for mechanics and repair shops consists of a small steel tube, 2¼ inches long and ⅜ inch in diameter, and a crank that is screwed into the threaded end of the tube. To use the tool, shown in the photograph, the ears of the



spring-type hose clamp are placed in the tube's 2¼-inch-long slot, and by turning the crank the ears are pushed apart, releasing the spring's grip around the hose. The hose can then be easily removed.

• Science News Letter, 80:342 November 18, 1961

☛ **PORTABLE SAW** with an eight-inch blade is powered by a compact ¼-h.p. gas

engine, thereby eliminating the electric cord. Weighing only 11 pounds, the saw can be operated in any position. A pull of the starting cord puts the saw into operation and it uses only a pint of fuel per hour.

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☛ **RADIOACTIVE SAMPLE PREPARATION KIT** for nucleonics students is a quick, simple method for preparing uniform solid radioactive samples. A solution is filtered by suction through a chimney funnel. A dry uniform sample is deposited on a reusable porous stainless steel filter disc and the sample is then ready for counting.

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☛ **DISPOSABLE PILL CUP** for hospitals is lightweight and inexpensive. The ⅝-ounce transparent plastic cup has either a snap-in, pull tab paper lid, or one with an extension card for noting the patient's name and time for medication.

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☛ **AUTOMATIC WATER COOLER** small enough to fit under the kitchen sink works on the same principle as a refrigerator, keeping the water at 40 degrees. Hooked into the cold water line, the cooler has its own spigot which can be placed alongside the cold water tap at the sink.

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## Nature Ramblings



## Do You Know?

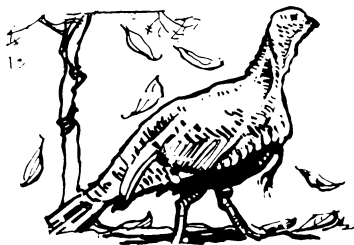
► THE ANCESTOR of today's Thanksgiving table turkey was wild. When the first white settlers came to the New World, they discovered great flocks of these gleaming bronze birds. They roamed through the woods and swamps of eastern North America, feeding on acorns and other nuts.

The eastern wild turkey and its close relatives are native only to North and Central America. Because the turkey is a strictly American bird, Benjamin Franklin wanted it for our national emblem. When Congress was looking for an appropriate emblem for the Great Seal of the United States of America, Franklin proposed the turkey.

But after six years of deliberation, Congress chose the bald eagle. The bird was selected because for centuries it had been considered a symbol of power. The people of southern Mesopotamia had used the eagle as a standard since 3000 B.C. Later the Romans decorated standards with replicas of these birds. Congress adopted the bald eagle as the symbol for the Seal in 1782.

Franklin commented on the selection in

### Wild Turkey



a letter dated Jan. 20, 1784:

"I wish," he wrote, "the Bald Eagle had not been chosen as the Representative of our country; he is a bird of bad moral Character; like those among Men who live by Sharping and Robbing, he is generally poor, and often very lousy.

"The Turkey is a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original native of America."

During the 1930's there were so few wild turkeys left in the United States it appeared as if the bird would become extinct.

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Plastic violins rated better than moderate-cost wooden violins have been developed.

*Multiplexing*, a new system of broadcasting, enables FM radio stations to broadcast true stereophonic sound over frequencies they now use.

Some species of *butterflies* in Peru and Venezuela have hairs on the abdomen so venomous they cause an eczematous skin condition in humans on contact.

*Bone fractures* are more common in persons who live in single-level homes than in those who live in walk-up apartments that require more strenuous exercise.

Laying *hens* housed in floor pens with freedom to run about produce more eggs than those kept in cages.

*Propetology*, dealing with the individual's innate susceptibility and resistance to disease, has been reported as a new branch of medical science.

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