

INVENTION

Patents of the Week

A method for building a shielding for nuclear reactors when being moved from place to place, made in the form of a honeycomb, was granted a patent.

► A LIGHTWEIGHT method of shielding nuclear reactors so they can be more easily moved from place to place, especially by airplane, was awarded a patent.

The method developed by James T. Mattingly of Danville, Calif., is to build the shielding in the form of a honeycomb, with the empty space of the comb being filled with a neutron-absorbing material such as lithium or boron. For this invention he was granted patent 3,056,028, rights to which were assigned to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

Traffic Controller

To allow the amount of traffic to determine when cars from two or more side streets should be allowed access to a main street, John L. Barker of Norwalk, Conn., devised the control apparatus granted patent 3,056,107. He assigned rights to the Laboratory For Electronics, Inc., Boston.

The traffic-actuated controller provides for giving the right of way to either one of the two intersecting minor roads, then returning it to the major road. The minor road is selected by the apparatus on the basis of the traffic it carries at the time.

Preparing Bacon

A method of cooling bacon after it leaves the smokehouse so that it can be sliced easily, using liquid nitrogen, won patent 3,055,760 for Willard L. Morrison of Lake Forest, Ill. Rights were assigned to Lique-freeze Company, Inc., New York.

Using Mr. Morrison's method, the bacon starts at the smokehouse where it is smoked in the usual way. It is then taken from the smokehouse to the chilling zone where it is immersed in a bath of liquid nitrogen until the desired amount of nitrogen has been evaporated to cool the bacon. The bacon slab is next allowed to remain in an equalizing area until all parts have reached 26 degrees Fahrenheit. Forming, slicing and further treatment is conventional.

Jacket With Picture Pockets

A picture-holding jacket designed especially for teen-agers won patent 3,055,133 for Kenneth V. Anderson of LaCrosse, Wis. Mr. Anderson's garment is an answer to the problem of displaying the friendship pictures and snapshots exchanged by young men and women in high school and college.

The jacket he devised is made of clear plastic, with rows of pockets in which the pictures can be inserted or removed. The pockets open from inside the jacket for protection of the pictures.

Other Significant Patents:

A method for separating the high-energy

nuclear particles such as produced in the large atom smasher at Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, N.Y. Patent 3,056,023 to Dr. Leona Marshall of Bellport, N.Y., who assigned rights to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

An improved cavity for reflecting the radiation generated by a three-level optical maser, in which at least one of the reflectors is concave. Patent 3,055,257 to Gary D. Boyd of Murray Hill, N.J., Arthur G. Fox, Rumson, N.J., and Tingye Li, Red Bank, N.J., who assigned rights to Bell Telephone Laboratories.

A dry, free-flowing powder for treating mange, a contagious skin disease of animals, prepared by absorbing soluble sulfur solutions on compounds of silica. William Valentine of Nanuet, N.Y., and John James Vance of Park Ridge, N.J., assigned rights to patent 3,055,804 to American Cyanamid Company, New York.

An apparatus for telling how many persons are watching a television show and which show they are watching, by photographing the audience and by making a record of the channel to which the set is tuned, a switch being provided if privacy is desired. Patent 3,056,135 was awarded to Charles H. Currey, Palatine, Ill., and Robert Freeman of Glenview, Ill., who assigned rights to A. O. Nielsen Company.

• Science News Letter, 82:247 October 13, 1962

Do You Know?

Spontaneous heating in hay bales may raise the internal temperature of the bale as much as 30 degrees Fahrenheit in eight hours.

Last winter the number of bluebirds in the United States was a mere 18% of normal expectations, according to the 1961 Christmas bird count.

Cancer costs the U.S. economy 50,000 man-years of productivity a year.

The world's highest cosmic ray laboratory is located atop Mt. Chacaltaya in LaPaz, Bolivia.

In the Soviet Union, 79% of all expectant mothers receive regular medical care by the end of their third month of pregnancy.

The magnetohydrodynamic generator can make electricity by passing a stream of white-hot gas between the poles of a strong magnet at nearly supersonic speeds.

Only three nerve fibers connect the moth's ear to its brain.

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YOUR HAIR

Its Health, Beauty and Growth

By Herman Goodman, M.D.

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