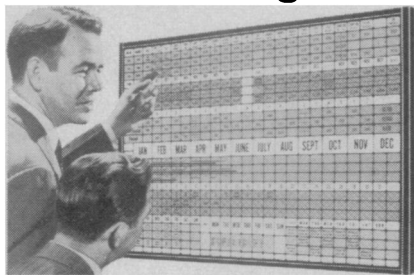


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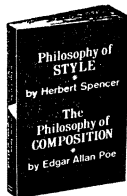
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INVENTION

Patents of the Week

A "talking book" for learning the alphabetical and numerical characters, that is simple enough for operation by a pre-school child, was awarded a patent.

➤ A "TALKING BOOK" that a pre-school child can operate to learn alphabetical and numerical characters earned patent 3,086,297 for Louise A. Kay of West Hartford, Conn., from the U.S. Patent Office.

The invention is carried in a "suitcase" where the material being studied fits across the top. An electric motor below operates the turntable and pick-up unit that in turn plays the appropriate record.

The construction is claimed to be the first rugged enough to withstand use by young children. Its entire emphasis is upon simplicity. Up to now such teaching devices also have not called for coordination specifically with a book.

New Type of Tennis Racket

The famous French tennis player, Jean Rene Lacoste, Paris, has been granted patent 3,086,777 for a new type of tennis racket frame. It is made up of two spaced beads connected by a web of smaller horizontal beads. What is formed in the frame is a pair of longitudinal grooves between the beads.

The racket is said to combine light weight and extreme strength. Its rigidity in the striking direction is very high. Other advantages claimed are less vibration and less noise than the conventional racket.

Self-Loading Truck Carrier

A carrier for self-loading or self-unloading a truck from either end of the carrier earned patent 3,086,669 for Cyril B. Rogers, Battle Creek, Mich., who assigned rights to the Clark Equipment Company.

The invention consists of a car, a turntable mounted on the car, and a vehicle loading ramp mounted on the turntable so that it can be pivoted. The turntable can align the ramp with the car and swing the ramp 90 degrees in either direction.

The ramp can thus be so adjusted that the vehicle can be driven off the ramp, since the angle of tilt is adjustable.

Other Inventions

Other patents awarded were:

A combination evaporative cooler and method for removing odors from air using carbon filters. Adam D. Goettl, Phoenix, Ariz., assigned rights to patent 3,086,342 to the McGraw-Edison Company, Milwaukee, Wis.

A detachable practical mine section with a visual signal device to indicate that the mine has been actuated. It was invented by Francis E. Butler, Washington, D.C.; Clark W. Dovell and Donald M. Leslie, Silver Spring, Md.; Vivian G. Costley, Takoma Park, Md., and La Verne C. Luh, Alexandria, Va. They assigned rights to patent

3,086,464 to the Navy Department.

A new type of offshore mooring platform that provides a vertical anchor cylinder pushed into the sea bottom, extending upwards to a point well above the wave action of a hurricane, for which Christopher J. Foster, Sands Point, N.Y., was granted patent 3,086,367.

A knockdown sandbox that can be readily assembled and easily stored that earned patent 3,086,773 for Eugene S. Hutcherson, St. Louis, Mo.

Fender boots for automobiles to protect the metal parts of an automobile body from the water, dirt and salt, ashes and slag that combine to rust out the automobile body parts. E. C. Garrett, Poland, Ohio, was granted patent 3,086,794.

A compartmentalized refrigerator providing at least three separate storage compartments that can be operated at different temperatures, for which patent 3,086,830 was awarded to John Peter Malia, Chicago, Ill.

Inflatable kites that can be folded or rolled into a small package which earned patent 3,086,737 for Theodore Hyman, St. Louis, Mo.

• Science News Letter, 83:302 May 11, 1963

TECHNOLOGY

Floating Platforms Serve As Huge Stable "Islands"

➤ HUGE STABLE "islands," floating platforms that will tilt and submerge one end 350 feet below the ocean's surface, will become a reality if the Government accepts a proposal of General Dynamics-Astronautics at San Diego, Calif.

The platforms would be 442 feet long and have a four-deck superstructure rising 62 feet above the water. Their stability would be nearly that of land-based installations. They would provide tracking and signal receiving stations for manned and unmanned spacecraft and long-range ballistic missile flights.

The absence of rolling and pitching, as on ships, will allow precise tracking and communications.

• Science News Letter, 83:302 May 11, 1963

Do You Know?

A new *synthetic*, a plastic-like substance, sets from a non-aqueous liquid into a marble-like material in 45 minutes.

The temperature of individual *lightning* strokes ranges from 45,000 to 55,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

• Science News Letter, 83:302 May 11, 1963