

Patents of the Week

A folding spare tire that requires only a small amount of storage space when not in use and is inflated only when needed earned a patent.

► AN AUTOMOBILE TIRE that can be folded up in a tiny corner when not in use and inflated in an emergency may someday replace the traditional "spare."

The U.S. Patent Office issued patent 3,116,778 to two B. F. Goodrich Company employes for their invention, now being considered by the auto industry. The tire has been road-tested successfully, inflated and used for 100 miles, then deflated, folded and later remounted for another 100 miles. Test tires held up for more than 500 miles this way. Folding the tire one or more times does not injure the tread, sidewalls or beads.

Frank Herzegh of Cleveland and James W. Pond of Doylestown, Ohio, assigned rights to their invention to the B. F. Goodrich Company, Akron, Ohio.

"Pinless" Diaper

Baby no longer needs to fear being pricked by a safety pin when Daddy takes over the diaper-changing chore if he uses a new diaper that stays on without pins.

Balus F. Smith, Los Angeles, earned patent 3,116,733 for the diaper which is held in place with snaps. "Waistband" springs make the diaper conform to baby's body. The springs are enclosed in a hem on the two sides of the diaper which is drawn around baby's waist. They can either be washed along with the diaper or removed for washing.

Dental Cleanser Tablet

For the person who likes to brush after every meal without messing with tubed toothpaste, a Minnesota inventor has developed a dental cleanser in tablet form.

You pop the tablet in your mouth, crush it with your teeth and then brush. The tablet consists of calcium carbonate mixed with sodium lauryl sulphate and can be inexpensively manufactured. Joseph S. Edmond Sr. of Farmington, Minn., received patent 3,116,208 for his invention.

Snake Toxicant

A toxicant that kills snakes and other cold-blooded animals on contact but is not poisonous to warm-blooded animals, earned patent 3,117,058 for James R. Jenni of Oklahoma City, Okla.

When sprayed on a snake-infested area of 20,000 square feet near a Texas airbase, 240 rattlesnakes, seven copperheads and one coral snake were found dead three days later. A copperhead den near Tulsa, Okla., was also wiped out with the toxicant.

The chemical consists of a liquid hydrocarbon and 0, 0-dialkylthiophosphate of a polyalkylmercaptosuccinate, in which the alkyl groups contain from one to five carbon atoms, and an emulsifying agent.

Other Significant Patents

A helicopter having a rotor column,

blades and a tail boom that fold and retract for use as an automobile—patent 3,116,896 to Harold H. Sigler, San Mateo, Calif., and Joseph Stuart III, Palo Alto, Calif., assigned to Eltra Corporation, Brooklyn, N.Y.

A tiny washing machine for dental plates, jewelry and other small articles that can be placed in the medicine cabinet—patent 3,116,744 to Earl E. Hanger, Riddle, Oreg.

A compressed block of porous, nutritious material that provides both room and board for earthworms—patent 3,115,864 to Carman J. Wagner, Porterfield, Wis.

A smoke flavored cereal product made from barley malt meal or flour—patent 3,117,007 to Clifford M. Hollenback, Manitowoc, Wis.; assigned to Red Arrow Products Corporation, Milwaukee, Wis.

An elevated, portable deer stand complete with camouflage for hunters wishing to camp high above ground and watch for game—patent 3,116,808 to James A. Riley, Little Rock, Ark.

A method of recovering pure metal from scrap wire by first burning off the insulation—patent 3,116,545 to Herman L. Brown, Brooklyn, N.Y.

A moveable decoy that simulates the feeding position of ducks in water—patent 3,115,721 to John Story, Tulsa, Okla.

A process for treating salt crystals so that they will not mass together when exposed to moisture—patent 3,112,175 to Martin Schultze, Hans Severin, Karl-August Holscher, and Peter Rosenbaum, all of Rheinberg, Germany; assigned to Deutsche Solvay-Werke, a corporation of Solingen-Ohligs, Germany.

An auto wheel anti-skid device comprised of curved "arms" with metal cleats for gripping in snow, ice or mud—patent 3,112,138 to John Kauer of Bethel, Conn.

A location-fixing device that will permit fishermen to return exactly to big catch spots even on large lakes—patent 3,111,762 to Carl A. Boehme, Minneapolis, Minn.

• Science News Letter, 85:61 Jan. 25, 1964

TECHNOLOGY

Steel Hardness Tested Magnetically at 17 MPH

► A NEW GAUGE determines the hardness of rapidly moving steel without touching the metal. It "watches" long coils of steel, up to five miles long, by measuring the strength of the magnetic field in the steel and relating it to magnetic hardness.

The gauge operates by erasing any stray magnetism, then inducing magnetic fields in certain test spots and finally recording the induced magnetism. Developed by Assembly Products, Inc., Chesterland, Ohio, the Flux-Flaw magnetic hardness gauge can measure steel moving even faster than 1,500 feet per minute (17 miles per hour).

• Science News Letter, 85:61 Jan. 25, 1964

Gift Books

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By H. G. Harris



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