

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **ELECTRONIC NOTEBOOK** that fits in the palm of the hand picks up ordinary conversations up to 25 feet away. Recording up to 30 minutes on one tape, it plays back clearly through its built-in speaker. Included in the unit are remote control microphone, earphone, four 1.5 volt batteries, tapes, leather carrying case and shoulder strap. Telephone pick-up for recording phone conversations is available separately.

• Science News Letter, 85:368 June 6, 1964



⚙️ **SPARE PROPELLER KIT**, an important accessory in case of emergency, such as smashing against a submerged rock or log, consists of a propeller, an installation tool and spare parts all compactly packaged. Requiring just three screws for mounting, the kit can be placed in any convenient position anywhere in the boat. Propellers are available in sizes for outboard engines from 10 to 90 horsepower.

• Science News Letter, 85:368 June 6, 1964

⚙️ **SKI TRAINER** helps the beginning water skier master the sport and learn proper skiing technique. The trainer, consisting of a lightweight tubular metal handle, is attached to the regular ski handle and slipped over the ski tips holding the skis in position until the boat reaches skiing speed. The trainer is then released from the ski tips and used as a regular ski handle. Directions are included.

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⚙️ **ELASTIC SILICONE SEALANT**, shown in photograph, especially suitable for repair and construction of tall buildings that sway in driving winds, stretches and does not crack or crumble like mortar. The material, applied from a caulking gun, solidifies to a solid rubber that sticks to most building materials and stays elastic regardless of temperature. The sealant is also useful for sealing exterior panels that expand and contract due to weather changes.

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⚙️ **FLEXAGON PLAYHOUSE** provides hours of constructive fun for children. Tents, lemonade stands, forts, towers, rocket ships and geometric forms as well as playhouses can be built with the eight square and ten triangular color panels included in the kit. The units, which are held together by special rubber bands, can be rebuilt and dismantled time and time again in minutes. Desk top models are also available.

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⚙️ **TRANSISTORIZED FISH CALL** helps assure a catch for the fisherman. Combining sound and light, the device lures the fish to a fisherman's exact fishing spot. The fish call emits a sound barely audible to the human ear, travels some 200 to 300 yards through the water, and also produces light waves at the same time to attract all species of fish. A dial allows selection of five different variants of sound waves.

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⚙️ **LUBRICANT AND COATING SPRAY** for the laboratory eliminates the problem of over-greasing and plugging of glassware bores. The lubricant, suitable for all ground glass joints, stopcocks and other laboratory equipment utilizing glass joints is easily applied with the push of a button. The spray, which comes in a 16-ounce can, wipes clean with a cloth.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

How to Live to Be 100

➤ A SURVEY of 29,000 Americans who lived to be 100 shows that they all seemed to roll with the punch. "Why fight?" they all decided.

Dr. Robert J. Samp of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, made the survey, reported in *Today's Health*, June 1964, along with less scientific theories about lengthy living.

Charles Decker, a retired Marcellus, Mich., barber who lived to be 105, credited his ripe old age to the fact that he never drank nor smoked. This is in direct opposition, however, to the testimony of George Kent, of Thurvaston, England, who believed smoking a pipe and drinking a pint of beer a day kept him living to the same age.

Deaths From 'Blue Velvet'

Three deaths of drug addicts using "blue velvet" injections are reported by a team of Detroit physicians in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 188:755, 1964.

High blood pressure in the arteries of the lungs, with blood clots blocking the smaller vessels caused death in two of the cases. In the third, an infection of the heart muscle, called bacterial endocarditis, caused death.

Blue velvet injections are prepared by boiling down an ounce of paregoric, which contains opium, and adding a crushed tablet of the antihistamine, Pyribenzamine, or tripeleminamine, hydrochloride. The Pyribenzamine gives the mixture a blue color.

Drs. Vernon E. Wendt, Henry E. Puro, Jack Shapiro, William Mathews and Paul L. Wolf reported the findings.

Smoking and Emphysema

Support for the Surgeon General's Smoking and Health report on the linkage of cigarette smoking and the lung disease emphysema was given in *Science*, 144:1025, 1964.

Autopsies of the lungs of 71 persons, 47 of whom smoked regularly, showed smoking to be a major factor in the development of a large number of emphysema cases.

Drs. Augustus E. Anderson Jr., J. A. Hernandez, Phillippa Eckert and Alvan G. Foraker of Baptist Memorial Hospital, Jacksonville, Fla., reported the study.

Heart Artery Surgery

A house painter is leading a charmed life as a result of rare surgery that replaced a heart valve and a four-inch section of the aorta, the large artery originating from the left ventricle.

Eleven months after the operation, described as the first "successful replacement of the entire ascending aorta" and the aortic valve, the 57-year-old man was in a car accident and suffered a severe crushing blow to his chest. The valve was not dislodged and he made a good recovery.

Drs. Myron W. Wheat, James R. Wilson and Thomas D. Bartley of the University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, reported the surgery in *JAMA*, 188:717, 1964.

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