

• New Machines and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE SERVICE, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 896. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **CARRIER TUBES** are designed to send small parts from one machine to the next in a production sequence without manual handling. Extruded of a clear acetate plastic, the tubes permit inspection through their transparent walls. They are adaptable to pneumatic, mechanical or gravity methods of conveyance.

Science News Letter, August 17, 1957

⚙️ **BOAT TRAILER** has rubber air springs that can be adjusted to support boats ranging from 40 to 1,400 pounds. The load carrying capacity of the trailer is changed by adding or removing air from the rubber bellows of the springs.

Science News Letter, August 17, 1957

⚙️ **PLASTIC BREADBOX** has an inside cover that also serves as a convenient cutting or spreading board. Molded from a polyethylene plastic resin, the box is described as being resistant to cracking, chipping and breaking. Designed to hold four loaves of bread, the box is available in four colors.

Science News Letter, August 17, 1957

⚙️ **BALL-THROWING MACHINE** shown in the photograph places a ball across a tennis net at a constant speed, height and position. The automatic tennis



ball server delivers the balls at five-second intervals and can take 40 balls at one loading. The ball thrower can be set and reset for speed and direction.

Science News Letter, August 17, 1957

⚙️ **POOL PAD** is described as waterproof and non-sinkable. Made from a flexible, foamed-plastic polyurethane covered with vinyl, the pad weighs less than two and

one-half pounds. The pool pad can be used on a chaise lounge, for sunning or as a play float in the water. It can be cleaned with soap and water.

Science News Letter, August 17, 1957

⚙️ **FAUCET WATER HEATER** is portable and electric. Weighing less than two pounds, the unit is described as providing automatic flow of hot water in two seconds. Designed to be carried on vacations or trips, as well as for the home, the unit is said to be shockproof.

Science News Letter, August 17, 1957

⚙️ **CRAYON HOLDER** permits a youngster to dial a desired color. Bright matching colors on the outside of the holder help teach color association. Made of solid wood, the crayons are taken out and put back through a plastic revolving top.

Science News Letter, August 17, 1957

⚙️ **ELECTRICAL CABLE** is a ribbon-like, flexible film in which are imbedded flat copper conductors only .0015 inch thick. The conductors are parallel, accurately positioned and surrounded by a transparent polyester insulation. The cable tape has high tear resistance, high flex life and resistance to chemical attack.

Science News Letter, August 17, 1957



Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

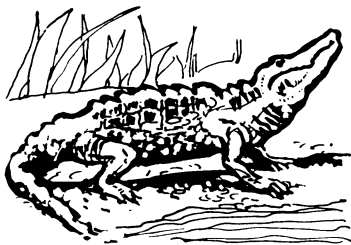
➤ ARE ALLIGATORS really dangerous? There is no room for doubt now. When they are abundant near centers of human population, they are a menace.

Eau Gallie, Fla., used to be an area of uninhabited swamp and marshland. Now it is a thriving community, although creeks within the town still contain huge alligators.

In July an Eau Gallie child disappeared, and parts of his body were found in an 11-foot bull alligator. A smaller female alligator also had eaten some of the body.

It is debatable whether or not the child was drowned and then eaten or whether the alligator killed him. But this is of little concern to the citizens of Eau Gallie, who have declared war on their alligator population. The state of Florida has had to permit the killing of alligators in

Alligators and Man



this region where before they were completely protected.

No one can blame the citizens of Eau Gallie for wanting to exterminate alligators that endanger human lives within the community. But there is great danger that extermination will not stop here.

As more and more of Florida's wilderness becomes tamed, the home of thousands of urban dwellers, the 'gators will become

fewer and fewer. Even the "limitless" Everglades are being limited by drainage, farms and communities.

There is a great lesson—a warning—to be taken from this sad incident. When beast and man come into competition, man invariably wins out. But man's victory is his loss, as the toll of extinct and dying species mounts.

America needs inviolate wilderness areas, where wildlife can remain forever free from competition with humans. We have many such refuges, but we need many more. We must see to it that the boundaries of these wildlife havens remain intact.

As our human population grows, there comes a continuous pressure for more land, more natural resources. It is expedient to yield to this pressure, but not wise. Savings of wilderness today will give great interest tomorrow.

Science News Letter, August 17, 1957