

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **RUSTPROOF PULLEY** is a combination of a pearl-white, colorfast tenite-butylate plastic wheel and an aluminum bracket. The bracket has a tongue that serves as a clothesline guide and a large hole for anchoring with an extra heavy hook. The pulley is also described as snagproof.

Science News Letter, September 7, 1957

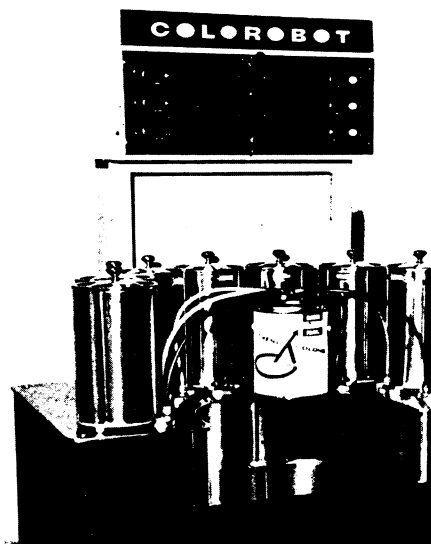
⚙️ **READY-TO-USE COATING** adheres to galvanized and other smooth metal surfaces. It is described as weatherproof and requiring no etching or acid treating of the metal beforehand. The primer and protector can be applied to new, old, unpainted or rusty galvanized surfaces.

Science News Letter, September 7, 1957

⚙️ **ILLUMINATED TRACING UNIT** is portable and lightweight. It can be used for photographic, reproduction or drafting work, as well as under a straight edge or drafting machine. Made of shatterproof opal Plexiglas, the unit is available in several tracing surface sizes.

Science News Letter, September 7, 1957

⚙️ **COLOR SELECTOR** permits a paint buyer to pick out any color he or she wants by inserting a card into an automated reader. Within a few seconds, the robot device shown in the photograph has the exact selected color mixed and ready to



take home. Eight controlled colorants are used for addition to standard quart, gallon or five-gallon cans.

Science News Letter, September 7, 1957

⚙️ **TELEPHONE OR BOTTLE HOLDER** is made of a semi-rigid flexible steel arm with interchangeable holders. Designed for home or office, the arm can be clamped to

a bed, dresser, desk or crib and held in the position desired.

Science News Letter, September 7, 1957

⚙️ **PLASTIC CAPS** for the exposed ends of pegs mounted on boards to hold pots, pans, tools and other items are available in black, red, turquoise, yellow and white. The colorful tabs are designed to fit peg fixtures measuring either one-eighth or one-fourth of an inch.

Science News Letter, September 7, 1957

⚙️ **CEILING TILE** for the do-it-yourself home handyman. For installation, the 12-by-12-inch tiles can be nailed or stapled to one-by-three-inch furring strips. The staples or nails are hidden by the tile joints. The sound-proofing material is said to absorb up to 20 times more sound than an ordinary ceiling.

Science News Letter, September 7, 1957

⚙️ **STOP LIGHT** designed to be fixed to the left front fender of an automobile gives extra warning that your car is slowing down. The light can be adjusted to any height and is hooked up to the brake pedal. The motion of the automobile stopping causes the safety light to vibrate. The light is legal in 19 states.

Science News Letter, September 7, 1957



Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

➤ **FROM INFANCY** on, we humans delight in tales in which nice little herbivores escape from the clutches of big bad carnivores.

Aesop's fables bear out this theme. Then came Br'er Fox versus Br'er Rabbit. More recently, the movie cartoons with Tom versus Jerry or the "wittle bird who thought he saw a putty tat" have elaborated on the subject.

When considered simply as tales for children's entertainment, such stories of the "good" versus the "bad" animal certainly have their place. However, these designations of good and bad are often carried over in the minds of adults, to the disadvantage of the predatory, meat-eating animals. A fox then is seen as a villain to be hunted and killed, not as a necessary figure in nature's balance. The coyote is an assassin, and his role in preventing over-population of grass-eaters is forgotten or ignored.

In a fictional Utopia, supposedly there would be no big bad carnivores to prey on the lesser beasts.

The Big Bad Carnivores



Australia proved such a Utopia to rabbits which were transplanted there from Europe. In that new land, there were no native predators to keep their numbers under control.

As a result, the rabbit population grew by leaps and bounds, creating destructive competition for native wildlife and comprising an economic burden for humans. A deadly rabbit disease had to be introduced into Australia in order to control the number of rabbits.

In our own country, war was declared against predators in 1906 in the Grand

Canyon National Game Preserve. This was done to protect the deer. Hunting the deer was prohibited, and in some 20 years at least 781 mountain lions, 30 wolves, 4,889 coyotes and 544 wild cats were slaughtered there. The deer herd numbered about 4,000 at the beginning of the campaign. By 1924, the herd numbered 100,000!

But then came the predictable disaster. In the winter of 1924, the vegetation of the Preserve was wiped out by the tremendous herd. The deer that did not die then stripped trees of leaves and twigs until "the whole country looked as though a swarm of locusts had swept through it." Deer died by the thousands from starvation.

The way to prevent this situation would have been to leave the predators untouched and to allow controlled hunting of the deer herd. It took many years thereafter to restore the balance of nature to that area, thrown out of kilter by man's good intentions.

There are no good and bad animals. All are necessary parts of the whole we call "nature."

Science News Letter, September 7, 1957