

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **PONY-TAIL MAKER** for youngsters or grown-ups applies a tight rubber band around a lock of hair at any desired point up to one inch from the scalp. Made of plastic, the device is in the form of a collar with two small, opposite slots and a flange. It can also be used for pigtails, braids or buns.

Science News Letter, December 7, 1957

⚙️ **BURGLAR ALARM** is modeled on the principles of the proximity fuse. It is described as needing no broken beams, cut wires or shattered windows to wail its alarm. The portable unit can be set so the alarm stays on as long as someone is near it, or sound off for two minutes and then stop, or continuously.

Science News Letter, December 7, 1957

⚙️ **ELECTRONIC SOLDERING GUN** weighs only 19 ounces and is less than two inches in diameter through its housing. It delivers full 100 watts, heats in two to three seconds on 110-120 volts A.C. 60 cycle and cools quickly. It also features a built-in spotlight and interchangeable tips.

Science News Letter, December 7, 1957

⚙️ **TELEPHONE ASHTRAY**, shown in the photograph, fits both regular and more



modern French telephones. It is designed to provide an ashtray for conversationalists caught without one. Easily slipped on and off for emptying and cleaning, the telephone caddy is made of a heavy, burnished and lacquered brass.

Science News Letter, December 7, 1957

⚙️ **ALUMINUM MAILBOX** loads from the top and releases mail from the bottom. The main body of the box is made of a single, seamless aluminum extrusion with

fluted sides. The face plate, available in color, is a grid-rolled patterned sheet. The bottom of the box is spring-hinged for easy opening.

Science News Letter, December 7, 1957

⚙️ **SHOE SHINE PADS** are made of circular cotton pieces saturated with a polishing agent. Disposable, the quick shine pads provide a water-repellent finish, as well as protection against mold and mildew.

Science News Letter, December 7, 1957

⚙️ **ALL-PLASTIC SCRUB BRUSH** is said to be resistant to swelling and warping so that bristles remain firmly set. Molded in one piece, the block has a hole for hanging and corrugations for good gripping. The bristles are made of a styrene monofilament resistant to matting. The brush weighs five ounces.

Science News Letter, December 7, 1957

⚙️ **SLIDE RULE-TIE CLASP** measures two inches in length. The slide rule is fully calibrated and has A, C, and D scales. Available in sterling silver or in gold-plate, the rule can be clipped to a pocket if not used as a tie clasp.

Science News Letter, December 7, 1957



Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

► THE BEAR cub was plump, almost rolling in fat, and the cold wind seemed to make him long for sleep. Yet he paused for a final slash at the rotten log in hopes of finding just one more insect.

The hunt was short-lived, however, for his mother gave a peremptory growl which sent him hurrying after her.

They moved on until they reached a shallow cave hidden by thick underbrush. The mother entered first, nosed around to see that all was well, then settled heavily to the earth. The cub clambered in after her, snuggled against her warm body. Shortly both were in a deep sleep. This sleep would last for three months, while snow and ice reigned outside the little cave.

The cub was now not quite a year old. He had been born the previous January in this cave, or one quite like it. He had no brothers or sisters, though the usual litter

Winter Sleep



is two or three. He now weighed more than 50 pounds, including the thick layer of fat that would nourish him through the winter sleep, but he was only 10 ounces at birth and hardly larger than a red squirrel!

During the remaining months of his first winter, the mother bear had kept the helpless cub covered with her body. His eyes did not open until he was six weeks old. But in another few weeks, the cub was a strong and active bundle of curiosity, ready

to emerge from the cave into the world of the forest.

It had been an exciting summer for the cub. His mother kept him well fed and out of serious trouble. She was a stern teacher in the ways of the woods. Inattention was punished by a heavy blow from her paw. All in all, though, it was fun.

Now back for the winter sleep again! He leaned against his mother as the wind whistled outside. Perhaps he was dreaming of another summer of cubdom under the loving, watchful eye of his mother. If this was his thought, he would be greatly disappointed next spring.

For next year he will be a cub no longer in the eyes of his mother. Soon after they emerge from the winter sleep, she will chase him off, and he must seek his own fortune.

She, for her part, will find another mate, a father for the cubs she will have the following winter. And perhaps the cub, no longer a cub, will find a mate, too.

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