

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **RUBBER SPONGE MOP**, self-wringing, is made of aluminum. Weighing less than two pounds, the mop has a two-piece sectional metal handle for storing convenience. The sponge can be used to scrub, wax, dust, wash or shampoo walls, floors and rugs. It is eight and one-half inches wide.

Science News Letter, December 28, 1957

⚙️ **SCREW-HOLDING DRIVER** for electric and electronic assembly work and maintenance holds a screw in place until the threads take hold. Designed for work in hard-to-get-at places, it works when pressure against the screw expands twin bits, automatically tightening the grip within the screw slot.

Science News Letter, December 28, 1957

⚙️ **QUICK-DRYING PAINT** promises fast redecorating of business offices. It is a tough paint based on a vinyl acetate resin latex. Described as relatively odorless and drying overnight, the paint can be applied by brush, roller or spray. It resists both acids and alkalis, and is washable.

Science News Letter, December 28, 1957

⚙️ **HOME OILER** is a hydraulic-type device that holds up to four ounces of lubricating oil. Made of a butyrate plastic, the oiler, shown in the photograph, can be



aimed and "fired" at hard-to-get-at parts. The oiler's base unscrews to permit filling. It is available in red, yellow or green.

Science News Letter, December 28, 1957

⚙️ **CHURCH CUSHIONING** is designed for use on straight or radius pews. Resiliency comes from a one and one-quarter inch slab of a plastic foam. Permanently fastened, the cushioning is non-slipping and fire re-

sistant. It is also resistant to moisture, mildew and moths.

Science News Letter, December 28, 1957

⚙️ **AUTOMATIC TRENCHING MACHINE** helps in the laying of plastic pipe and cable. The wheel-mounted machine cuts through hard ground forming a trench two and one-quarter inches wide. Three models are available that trench to depths of 12, 18 or 24 inches. It can be operated at speeds up to three feet per minute.

Science News Letter, December 28, 1957

⚙️ **COMPOUND ANGLE CALCULATOR** for the do-it-yourself woodshop enthusiast is said to save time, timber and temper. The number of sides is set on a revolving scale opposite the work angle. The reading gives the exact miter gauge setting and saw angle.

Science News Letter, December 28, 1957

⚙️ **DRILL ACCESSORIES KIT** for electric power drills is housed in a tool-box with a tray that measures 18 by 6 by 8 inches. The kit includes a paint mixer, wire brush, grinding wheel, buffing wheel, nine twist drills, 15 sandpaper discs, a polishing bonnet, rubber pad, speed stand and adapter set.

Science News Letter, December 28, 1957



## Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

➤ WINTER has surrounded us now, and we are her prisoners. Her chain is long. One day we may enjoy the brief freedom of clear, crisp, invigorating days. But then she draws us back inside with dreary, gray days and damp, penetrating winds. Then, most of all, do we miss the freedom of early summer.

If there is one single thing that symbolizes summer freedom and summer pleasure, it is the sharp, sweet call of the bobwhite or quail. If you can pull from your memory that "ah-bob-white," the dreariness fades from the winter day, and you see a green field shimmering in the June sunshine.

The bobwhite's song that won him his name is a love call, and certainly a beautiful one.

It is the call of the cock seeking a mate. As the summer wears on and the call persists, you may guess that it becomes a call

### Summertime Memory



of unrequited love. Family men among the bobwhites rarely if ever sing the "ah-bob-white!"

Studies have shown there are about 110 to 115 cocks for every 100 hen bobwhites. Thus, a considerable number of males remain bachelors throughout the breeding season. It is these unattached cocks who maintain the summer-long music of their tribe.

In an experiment, a bachelor bobwhite was watched from four a.m. to seven-thirty p.m. one summer's day. During that time he gave out 1,430 typical "bobwhite" calls. There were only 228 minutes of this day in which the lonesome bobwhite did not give one or more calls. The greatest number of "bobwhites" he sang in one single minute was eight!

When these singing, single birds are captured and placed with an unmated female, their singing stops and they take up the role of husband and expectant father. In rare cases, when for some reason the bachelor's chosen mate does not suit him, he is apt to continue his singing while he shirks domestic duty.

Bobwhite breeders take advantage of bachelor bobwhites' singing advertisement of availability by capturing them to act as fathers (and mothers) to bobwhite chicks that were artificially hatched. They take to their duty eagerly, giving up freedom and song for foster parenthood!

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