

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 1126. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

❁ **GEOMETRIC MODELS** set helpful as a teaching aid contains 19 shapes including tetrahedrons, cylinders and pyramids. The transparent plastic solids are outlined in red for sharp visibility and can be marked with a china marking pencil. Sizes vary according to shapes.

• Science News Letter, 81:32 January 13, 1962

❁ **ROLL-OUT RANGE HOOD** for the oven-over-burner range is a no-duct, compact and complete unit that removes cooking fumes and gases. Gliding out for use and in for storage, the hood can be fastened to any of the new ranges. Its filter snaps out easily for cleaning and replacement of activated charcoal.

• Science News Letter, 81:32 January 13, 1962

❁ **PORTFOLIO SKETCH KIT** includes a new portable drafting instrument mounted in a self-locking binder which combines the advantages of a T-square, triangle and protractor, and a pad of 8½-x-11-inch drawing paper with pencil. Measuring 9½ x 13 x 1½ inches and weighing only 1½ pounds, the kit can be easily stored in a desk.

• Science News Letter, 81:32 January 13, 1962

❁ **PADDLE PUSHER FLOAT** for fishing is of waterproof nylon and fits over a truck tire inner tube. The fisherman, wearing chest-high waders with the paddle pushers strapped to canvas shoes, sits in the



float held waist high with shoulder straps and propels himself through the water by a walking movement. The float, shown in the photograph, has two zippered pouches for bait.

• Science News Letter, 81:32 January 13, 1962

❁ **SWEEP-CIRCUIT BOOSTER** of plastic increases over-all picture size in a television receiver when fitted to the base of a vacuum tube. Fitting snugly onto the

prongs of the tube, the booster requires no soldering and can be quickly installed without removing chassis.

• Science News Letter, 81:32 January 13, 1962

❁ **WATER BATH SHAKER** for reactions needing close control of temperature and regulated shaking provides a wide selection of shaking conditions. The temperature range is from room temperature to 90 degrees centigrade. The shaker has interchangeable trays for flasks, beakers and test tubes of different sizes.

• Science News Letter, 81:32 January 13, 1962

❁ **FISHERMAN'S GUIDE TABLE** displays in full color a map of the United States with natural colored reproductions of fish found in their native locales. Special charts on the table top give information concerning each species of fish. The washable top measures 21 x 29 inches and the table stands 14 inches tall on tapered black legs.

• Science News Letter, 81:32 January 13, 1962

❁ **POLYURETHANE VARNISH** for boat decks, floors, or furniture resists weather, salt spray, acids, alcohol, sun rays and hard wear. Easily cleaned with soap or detergents and never needing waxing, it can also be used on metals. Applied by brush, spray or roller, it dries in 45 minutes and can be walked on in 2½ hours.

• Science News Letter, 81:32 January 13, 1962



Nature Ramblings



Do You Know?

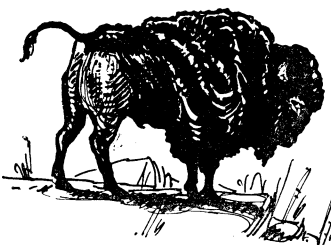
➤ **THE BUFFALO**, or American bison, played a vital part in the plant and animal community of a bygone day. The role of the buffalo (*Bison bison*) has now changed, and today it has the status of a zoo animal.

But in the days when millions of these great humpbacked animals roamed the Great Plains, the buffalo's ecological role was unique. Probably no other wild animal has ever been so closely associated with man.

The buffalo was a life source for a number of Indian tribes of the Great Plains region. The animal provided food, clothing, and shelter for these first American settlers. And the chips, dried droppings, were often used for fuel. The annual kill of these animals by the Indians did little to interfere with the buffalo's role in nature. For, in addition to being the Indian's life source, the short-horned buffalo was a seed planter of unsurpassed ability.

Much of the ground cover of the northern Great Plains consisted of various wheat

Buffalo



grasses including "blue bunch." As a rule, the blue bunch and other perennial grasses grew well because the soil was good and there was usually enough rain. Each year the grasses matured and came to seed which then dropped to the ground. As the small herds of buffalo moved over the Plains, drifting and foraging, they trampled the seeds into the ground, thus assuring a crop for next year.

• Science News Letter, 81:32 January 13, 1962

The entire northern front of North America along a 6,000-mile-long line is now electronically guarded against sneak attack by hostile aircraft.

A 90-ton hydrofoil ship with a 765-horsepower gas turbine engine that will travel on the surface of the water at a speed close to 60 knots is under construction in the U.S.

The median annual salary of scientists in the U.S. is \$9,000.

Thirteen and a half million children regularly take part in the National School Lunch Program.

A vast underground petroleum network that includes some 5,000 miles of buried pipeline from Norway to eastern Turkey has been under construction by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization nations since 1952.

• Science News Letter, 81:32 January 13, 1962