

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⊗ **ULTRASONIC LEAK DETECTOR** locates minute air or gas leaks more than 100 feet away by translating high frequency, inaudible sound from the escaping air or gas molecules into audible sounds. The mercury-cell-powered portable unit pinpoints trouble spots by its direction probe, eliminating the need for soaping entire systems to locate leaks.

• Science News Letter, 81:192 March 24, 1962

⊗ **WOOD PRESERVATIVE** for boats protects any wood hull from worms, dry rot, mildew and marine borers even if the paint film is broken. The preservative can be applied with a brush, roller or by dipping. Transparent, it does not affect appearance of the wood which can be painted or varnished later.

• Science News Letter, 81:192 March 24, 1962

⊗ **BURGLAR-PROOF WINDOW LOCK** for use on sash windows will tightly lock a window, sealing all drafts, or lock slightly open windows permitting ventilation. It will also close and lock misaligned windows. Made of brass plated steel with an overall size of  $2\frac{1}{8} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, it is easy to operate and will not damage the sash.

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⊗ **ROLLER TYPE-CLEANER** with an easy-to-hold plastic handle replaces solvents and putties and keeps the secretary's hands neat and clean. The cleaner, coated with a special compound, is rolled over the type and picks up lint, dust and ink from keys



of all electric and most manual typewriters. In daily use, the replaceable roller, shown in the photograph, lasts about two months.

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⊗ **REMOTE CONTROL SEARCH-LIGHT** is a five-inch sealed beam deck light. Constructed of triple chrome plated brass, it has a 46-inch easy action control cable and heavy duty, marine type push-pull

switch. The head of the light can be rotated 360 degrees and tilted vertically with a dash control wheel.

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⊗ **OUTDOOR LAMPHOLDER** for residential driveways, outdoor signs and advertising has a built-in photoelectric switch that automatically turns itself on in darkness and off in light. Made of cast aluminum, it operates on regular household current. The holder can be wired to control three additional lampholders up to a total of 600 watts.

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⊗ **RUST PREVENTIVE KIT** provides a rust-stopping coating for the inside surfaces at the bottoms of doors and insides of rocker panels on cars and trucks. Upholstery need not be removed. One 16-ounce spray container will coat four doors and two rocker panels. With a standard spray head, the material can be used on the car underbody.

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⊗ **CONCRETE MIXTURE TESTER**, useful to engineers and testing laboratories, measures the rate of hardening of mortars. The effects of variations in temperature, cement, mix design, additions and admixtures on the hardening of concrete are read from a meter that shows the resistance of the mixtures to penetrating needles.

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## Nature Ramblings



## Do You Know?

► **BEARING A FLOWER** like an ivory Maltese cross, the flowering dogwood conspicuously spreads its blossoms to the sun a week or more before other trees open their leaves.

The *Cornus florida* is America's most decorative and revered tree. Its white "petals," marked with rose, are merely the winter covering for the delicate yellowish-green flowers.

Although very hard, the gracefully curving, silver-gray trunk is seldom used commercially since it grows only to a maximum of 30 to 40 feet and does not weather well when processed.

The flowering dogwood is the state tree of Missouri, but it is found from Maine to Kansas and south to Florida and Texas. Its beauty is seen from the highway in the spring by motorists.

In the winter the tree holds up a silvery bud with four fingernail segments on each twig tip. These segments become the "petals" in the spring.

Migratory birds feast on the shiny red

### Flowering Dogwood



berries, glowing against the background of wine-tone oval leaves in the fall.

Flowering dogwood is a prolific tree, with the hard-coated seeds germinating freely in the soil under the adult tree. Since sunlight is so necessary to the life of the tree, seedlings can be transplanted to city yards and gardens.

Near Lancaster, Ohio, a dogwood with pink blossoms is the original source of the "red flowering dogwood" which is popular for gardens and nurseries.

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A project is underway on Roosevelt Island in the Antarctic to obtain clues on the behavior of massive ice sheets.

A decade ago electricity was rarely used for space heating.

Evidence shows that final ripening of cantaloupes is initiated by an increase in internal ethylene content at maturity.

Annual rice production in the United States has more than tripled in the past 20 years.

Gouty arthritis is now largely controllable, but remains the rheumatic disease that is most often missed in diagnosis.

A chemical cleaning system has been developed that salvages electronic and electrical equipment damaged by sea water, fuel oil, and smoke, with almost incredible effectiveness.

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