

# • 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 1138. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **TIRE STOWAWAY** solves tire storage problems for those who have separate sets of tires for winter and summer driving. Consisting of a steel rod shaped into a shelf-like frame, it can be mounted on any wall having wooden studs. Each frame of the set of two holds one tire without injury and off the floor.

• Science News Letter, 81:224 April 7, 1962

⚙️ **COMPACT ANALOGUE COMPUTER** performs a Fourier analysis, normally requiring about one hour, in three minutes, giving the DC offset and magnitudes of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th harmonics of any waveform that can be plotted. Values are read directly from a meter on the portable computer. Designed for desk-top operation, it weighs only 19 pounds.

• Science News Letter, 81:224 April 7, 1962

⚙️ **OPTICAL RADAR SET** consists of a laser transmitting and receiving device packaged in a portable suitcase. The extremely accurate device is useful in military applications to zero in on targets such as tanks, and commercially for surveying, where distances can be measured without triangulation. The laser beam is merely aimed on a target and the range read from an indicator.

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⚙️ **SCALE-MODEL SKELETON**, shown in the photograph, is a valuable aid in the



study of human anatomy. Molded of polyethylene plastic, the skeleton hangs freely from a hook on a stand, with bones ivory colored and cartilage lacquered in blue. An identification diagram is printed on the base of the stand.

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⚙️ **ELECTRONIC LIGHT CONTROL** will dim, blend or brighten up to 500 watts

of incandescent lighting by turning a dial. Easily installed with a screw driver, the control fits into the wall box for the standard on-off switch. It saves power by using only the electricity needed.

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⚙️ **REDESIGNED AUTOMATIC BURET** includes a square reservoir bottle which increases stability and reduces the table area required. Overall height of the unit has been reduced about three inches. Calibration lines are lower and more easily and accurately read.

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⚙️ **CRYSTAL PLANE LOCATOR** is a visual method for locating appropriate planes to orient crystals for X-ray patterns, light diffraction or cleavage. Consisting of a 1/8-inch plastic sheet with precise angles cut into its outer surfaces, the device will locate the 111, 110 and 100 planes in crystal models.

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⚙️ **PORTABLE AUDIO NOTEBOOK** designed specifically for language learning by the audio-lingual method saves drilling time for teachers. Wireless and battery-powered, the book size, tape recorder-reproducer has self-powered headphones, and provides for immediate listen-record-compare or storage of five hours of drill material.

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## Nature Ramblings



## Do You Know?

► **OUR NATIONAL SYMBOL**, the bald eagle, was challenged by naturalists John Audubon and Benjamin Franklin as to its suitability for such a high honor. The threat of extinction is the regal bird's present adversary.

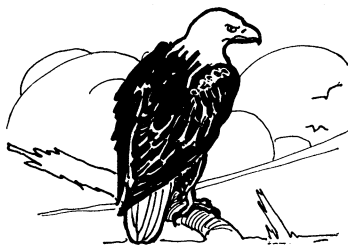
Alarming decreases in the population of the white-headed bird of prey have forced legislators to consider new courses of preservation for the bird depicted on our coins. The bald eagle, although protected by law, may disappear if its slaughter is not restricted.

Perhaps Franklin and Audubon, who opposed the bird because of its unroyal actions, should have had their way. The bald eagle is a thief and a scavenger. It waits until an unwary osprey catches a fish and then takes the meal away from the smaller bird. It lives on dead creatures and attacks harmless rodents.

Even the mild cheeping whistles of the bird are a disappointment to those expecting a cry worthy of the huge, fierce-looking bird.

But since June 20, 1782, when it was

### Bald Eagle



adopted by our Government, the bald eagle has assumed the responsibility of representing this country. It is protected because, aside from this honor and duty, its poise and beauty, its solitary way of life, the respective size and great power and speed of this great bird demand respect.

The bald eagle is as American as the ice cream sundae. Its heritage is cherished and its existence should be nurtured. It is known and revered by all Americans because it is our national emblem.

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Two types of *cells* in bone have antagonistic chemical action to keep bone metabolism in dynamic balance so that not too much bone is formed or destroyed at any time.

The most pronounced effects of higher gravities on various organs of the body of animals are shown in the skeletal system.

Natural gas or oil as a supplementary fuel makes it easier for steel-makers to control furnace operation and the quality of the metal.

In 1961 the mortality rate of the United States fell to the lowest level in six years.

Crippling rheumatoid arthritis is believed to be the result of attack by viruses or bacteria.

Chili pepper has been grown in the Espanola Valley, New Mexico, for more than 300 years.

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