

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **DRY LUBRICANT** for industrial and laboratory applications is a lubricating powder effective on metal, wood, glass, rubber or plastic at temperatures from minus 300 up to 500 degrees Fahrenheit. The lubricant is superior to powdered graphite since it will not soil or contaminate other material.

• Science News Letter, 81:400 June 23, 1962

⚙️ **CORROSION PREVENTIVE** that protects all metals from rust and corrosion has many uses in the home and industrial plant. Especially applicable in electrical equipment, the non-conductive organic liquid displaces moisture, penetrates rust and lubricates the metal beneath the rust. It will not harm rubber, plastics, paint or textiles.

• Science News Letter, 81:400 June 23, 1962

⚙️ **IMPROVED TELLUROMETER** is a portable electronic surveying instrument. It measures lines down to 100 feet in length with accuracy within three-eighths of an inch. The transistorized instrument weighs only 34 pounds and has simplified controls. Readings are shown in meters, reducing chances of error and saving time.

• Science News Letter, 81:400 June 23, 1962

⚙️ **POP-UP MUSIC BOX** to delight a child contains Cecil of the "Beany and Cecil" cartoon television show. The child turns the crank on the all-metal music box shown in the photograph and the musical unit



plays the theme from the TV show. At the climactic point in the music, the lid pops open and "Cecil the Seaside Sea Serpent" jumps up harmlessly.

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⚙️ **PLASTIC-AND-STEEL BIN** for storing baking and other kinds of ingredients is mounted on a steel chassis. It is available in three sizes with capacities up to 5½ cubic

feet. Resistant to most chemicals, the economical polyethylene container has a smooth seamless interior and is fitted with a steel sliding top.

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⚙️ **KEY PUNCH MACHINE** puts field data directly into punch card form for immediate home office data processing. Powered by an ordinary electrical outlet, the five-pound portable unit simultaneously punches and prints standard 80-column cards, doing the work of a 350-pound console-type card punch machine.

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⚙️ **AUTOMATIC LAWN SPRINKLER** completely powered by water pressure travels in any direction unattended, rewinding hose as it sprinkles. Accommodating up to 200 feet of hose, it will automatically water about 12,500 square feet of lawn in six to eight hours. The hose is laid out over the area in any pattern desired.

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⚙️ **IMMUNOELECTROPHORESIS EQUIPMENT** for agar gel eliminates manual handling of slides, protects the gel layer and minimizes evaporation. Capable of handling up to 108 resolutions per day, the apparatus can be applied to a wide variety of immunological investigations such as determination of blood serum components.

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Nature Ramblings



Poison Ivy

Photograph by FREMONT DAVIS • Text by WILLIAM E. SMALL

➤ "FOUR-MONTH-ITCH" time is here again, with the coming of the three-lobed menace, poison ivy. Thousands of Americans will be showing the unmistakable swollen hands and ankles and puffed faces which announce their unwitting contact with *Rhus radicans*.

The three common cousins, poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac, grow from Canada southward and are found in nearly every state. The ivy is found in the eastern part of the country, poison oak more commonly in the West, and sumac in swampy areas of the East.

Several forms of the ivy are found, varying with location and conditions. Some are erect, called poison oak in the eastern states, some climb and others are creeping or low in the foliage. They grow along fence rows or roads, in rocky fields or deep in the woods.

The three-leaf cluster of smooth, shiny leaves, varying from green in the summer to scarlet in the fall, sets poison ivy apart from harmless plants. Toxic oil is found in the small yellowish-green flowers, the smooth white fruit, the bark, roots and leaves.

Oily fluid secreted from the plants causes the irritation and blisters. Direct contact is not necessary, since the fluid can be transported in the air by smoke or wind, or carried in the fur of pets, on tools or on clothing, even from one year to the next.

A soapy film on the skin before a trek in the woods and a bath with a strong soap afterwards will help prevent dermatitis.

Remember: "Leaflets three, let it be."

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