

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **PERSONALIZED KEY CHAIN** holds favorite black and white or colored photographs embedded in clear plastic. One and one-half inches square, a single photograph against a contrasting background or two photographs, back to back, can be mounted on the key chain. The unit includes a ring for the keys, the embedded photograph and a flexible chain connecting the two.

• Science News Letter, 84:96 Aug. 10, 1963

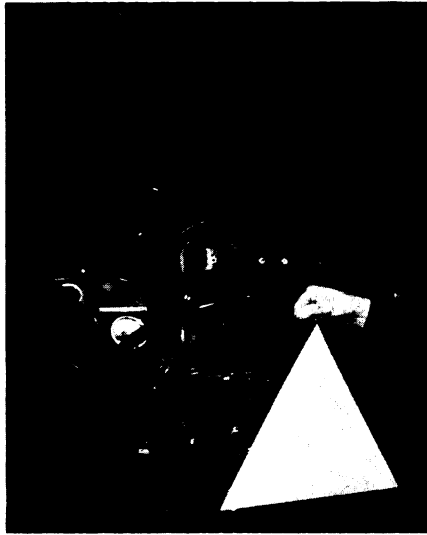
⚙️ **HEATER-STOVE** heats tents, camping trailers or cabins and also serves as a cook-stove. The stove, weighing only six pounds, has a maximum heat output of 3,600 BTUs per hour and gives almost instant heat through special vents adjustable in intensity by means of a handy volume control. Made with a steel body with an upper portion of heavy duty aluminum, the stove uses denatured alcohol as fuel.

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⚙️ **MAGNETIC CATCH-ALL** for home or office is a handy file for mail, papers, pencils and other small items. Powerful magnets secure the plastic container, 7 by 3 by 1½ inches, to any steel cabinet, file or typewriter. Removable, it is mounted without screws, nails or cement and is available in white or pastel colors.

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⚙️ **WARNING EMBLEM**, shown in photograph, tells a driver immediately that a



slow-moving vehicle is ahead and helps him avoid a rear-end collision. The slow-moving vehicle emblem is shaped in an equilateral triangle 14 inches high and colored fluorescent orange in the center and reflective red around the border, visible both night and day. Attached to the rear of slow-moving vehicles such as farm tractors and highway construction equipment, the emblem serves as a warning to cars following behind.

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⚙️ **COMPACT PACKAGING KIT** allows rapid heat sealing of parts, chemicals, oils, foods and other items in plastic sealable pouches. The lightweight sealing machine can be plugged into any standard current. To use, the open end of the pouch is inserted into the mouth of the appliance and a gentle touch of the face-plate gives an airtight seal. Included in the kit are 200 pouches and 325 pressure sensitive labels.

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⚙️ **CHARCOAL GRATE** for the barbecue grill makes cooking faster and cleaner. The steel grate is inserted directly into any barbecue grill. Its raised construction and open webbed surface lets air flow under and around the burning briquettes to produce heat evenly and quickly. The long-lasting grate also helps prolong the life of the grill by preventing the bottom surface from scorching.

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⚙️ **TRANSISTOR WRIST RADIO** for boys and girls is lightweight, measuring 1¾ by 1½ by ¾ inches. Operating on a two-transistor circuit with two mercury batteries like those used for hearing aids, it is designed for local reception, receiving up to seven stations depending on the locality. The set includes a stainless steel stretch band for the wrist and earphone receiver.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Drug Labels Favored by AMA Council

➤ **A PATIENT OUGHT TO KNOW** what drug he is taking. This position underlies the resolution of the American Medical Association's Council on Drugs favoring "labeling of prescriptions as a general practice."

Most patients would be better off if they knew what they were swallowing and how it worked, the Council said. They would be more likely to follow instructions and cooperate with doctors by noting side-effects and reporting complications.

Some drugs, the Council recognized, should not be labeled every time. These include sleeping pills and strong pain-killers. For if the patient knew their contents he might deliberately take an overdose for suicidal purposes. Tranquilizers too, might meet objections from a patient who did not want to admit he was upset.

In the resolution, the Council allows for these possibilities: ". . . It is recommended that prescription pads contain boxes for a 'yes' or 'no' on whether to label; if these boxes are not filled in by the physician, the prescription will be labeled."

Other advantages of labeling prescription drugs, reported in an editorial of the Journal of the American Medical Association, 185:316, 1963, are:

1. Helps when patient changes doctors, moves to another location, or calls doctor when records are not handy.
2. May save crucial minutes in cases of accidental poisoning or suicide attempts.
3. Helps prevent mixups between patient's drugs and those of other members of the family.

The Council favors labeling drugs with the official, or generic, name, rather than labeling by trade name, which investigators have pointed out, may benefit a single drug company and cost the patient extra.

There is evidence that doctors are changing their practices and telling the patient more about himself and the medications he is taking. But the Council expects it will take a number of years before the resolution on labeling is put into complete practice.

Heart Tests for Expectant Mothers

➤ **LISTEN FOR THE BABY'S HEART**, but check the expectant mother's heart too, a report in JAMA, 185:242, 1963, recommends.

The routine check for heart disease in expectant mothers may be overlooked by the physician in his preoccupation with other normal or abnormal developments during pregnancy.

However, heart disease is the biggest single killer of expectant or delivering mothers. It represents 25% of the maternal mortality rate.

A simple routine screening for heart disease might reduce the risk of death. Singling out the woman likely to have heart complications during pregnancy or delivery leads to treatment and care. Drs. Ephraim C. Meyer, Sheldon J. Slodki and Irving Siegel of Chicago Medical School and Mount Sinai Hospital reported such a preventative technique, called phonocardiography. The heart sounds of the patient are recorded on an electromagnetic disc and then checked by a physician for tell-tale signs of heart disease.

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