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A Studebaker Champion with overdrive convincingly proved Studebaker gasoline economy in this year's Mobilgas Grand Canyon Run. The Studebaker Champion averaged 26.351 miles per gallon to beat 30 other cars of 16 makes in straight-out gas mileage.

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Out ahead in style...in thrift...in value!

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KENTILE
The Asphalt Tile of Enduring Beauty

MAY 1950
Wood preservation holds down telephone costs

Poles are a substantial part of the plant that serves your telephone; making them last longer keeps down repairs and renewals that are part of telephone costs. So Bell Laboratories have long been active in the attack on wood-destroying fungi, the worst enemies of telephone poles.

Better, cleaner creosotes and other preservatives have been developed in co-operation with the wood-preserving industry. Research is now being carried out on greensalt — a new, clean, odorless preservative. Even the products of atomic energy research, radioactive isotopes, are used to measure penetration of fluids into wood.

Treated poles last from three to five times as long as untreated poles. This has saved enough timber during the last quarter century to equal a forest of 25,000,000 trees. More than that, wood preservation permits the use of cheaper, fast-growing timber instead of scarcer varieties.

This and other savings in pole-line costs, such as stronger wires which need fewer poles, are some of the reasons why America's high-quality telephone service can be given at so reasonable a cost. It is one of today's best bargains.

BELL TELEPHONE LABORATORIES

Exploring and Inventing, Devising and Perfecting, for Continued Improvements and Economies in Telephone Service.
this month's cover

SOMEHOW Hollywood always manages to sense a trend before it starts. Here we see a cameraman grinding away to record man's first exploration of the moon's craters. The movie will be at your local theater shortly, and without knowing the plot we'll bet that the first man to arch through infinity has one of those pin-up Hollywood gals waiting for him back on earth. Really significant, though, is the fact that the movie is based on scientific data—almost every problem of an interspace rocket has been solved. Dr. Hsue-Shen Tsien of the California Institute of Technology states that engineers could start construction this year of a rocket capable of reaching the moon. We're not rushing to volunteer as crew members, but this business of interplanetary travel no longer is a fantastic dream. To find out how scientists have solved the problems of a space ship, take a look at Tom Stimson's story on page 89.

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MAY 1950
in this corner

THE
EDITORS

I SIMPLY can't remember where I saw that article in *Popular Mechanics,* readers often write us in asking for help in finding some editorial item in a back issue of the magazine.

To make it easier for readers to locate articles quickly, a complete printed index for the first six months of this year is being prepared and will be available on request about the first week of June. To reserve a copy for yourself, your library or workshop, send your request with 10 cents to cover handling and mailing costs to the Bureau of Information, 200 East Ontario Street, Chicago 11, Ill. Copies of the index will be mailed as soon as they come from the presses.

* * *

Today New Departure, the powerful safety brake, affords constant control.

It brings any bike to a

![New Departure Safety Brake](image)

Little Mo Is on the Trail

We haven't heard any up-to-the-minute progress reports on "Little Mo" and his companion, Eddie Gallinagh, but about this moment they should be hoofing along those ancient ruts of the Santa Fe Trail that our Associate Editor, Aubrey O. Cookman, Jr., explored in a Jeep with Heath Proctor, airline pilot, last year. Proctor's story appeared in our January issue—his portrait on the cover—under the title "An Airline Pilot Rides the Wagon Trail."

Little Mo, billed as the "smallest Missouri mule in the world," started his trek with

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One Item Seen by Two British Eyes

To the Editor:

With reference to an article on page 146 of your November issue describing an "Electric Housemaid." The statement that it is a wife's custom to clean her husband's shoes is quite inaccurate.

During the last week I have made approximately 50 enquiries without finding one instance to support your statement. I would like to express my appreciation of your excellent magazine.

J. W. Eling-Smith (Major, M.C.), Fernleigh, Station Road, Borrowash, Derby, England.

To the Editor:

In your November issue you had a small article and photograph of an Electric Housemaid, which polishes shoes and does other wonders. The article gives the impression to any reader that every British housewife has one of these things. I am several thousand people have never even seen one!

It may be that your Mayfair and Park Lane of London folk have such a thing but then they would not come under the "housewife" category. A parallel is that we are led to believe that every American woman owns a refrigerator, washing machine and what have you. Can it be then that each country thinks that the other one is marvellous?

Leslie D. S. Geering, 37 Bude Road, Filton, Bristol, England.

Floating Factory

Swedish weeds are succumbing to a chemical weed killer made in a British factory in a Swedish harbor. The factory was aboard a 600-ton ship that anchored at Gothenburg with British chemists aboard. They hired additional Swedish workers, manufactured the required supply of phenoxyline, which attacks weeds but spares grains and grasses, then sailed home again.
Can you profit by their mistakes?

“What’s your biggest mistake?” That’s the question asked of American men and women in a national poll. Almost one out of every three who answered said, “Not getting enough education.”

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TUESDAY, MAY 30

Over the Entire Mutual Broadcasting System. See your local newspaper for time and station.
New York Shakes off its Bonds

By Clifford B. Hicks

An historic headache to New York traffic engineers is the network of deepwater rivers and harbors that has nurtured their city. Ships and barges cruise along the same waterways that cut across the motorist's path wherever he turns. New York is made for ships, not wheels.

Now, two mighty projects are on tap to keep the nation's vehicles rolling through the caverns of the city. One is the new tunnel, scheduled to open this month, which dips down beneath the water of the East River to link Manhattan with Brooklyn. The other is the "impossible" bridge, the one that couldn't be built, a tremendous span to cross the Narrows of New York Harbor. Impossible or not, the bridge will be built within 10 years, states an official of the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority, which is directing both projects.

Most daring of the two enterprises is the Narrows bridge, which will arch majestically across the harbor from Brooklyn to Staten Island—the longest single suspension span ever built. For years officials have begged for the bridge, and for years critics have scoffed that it just couldn't be built. The Authority's engineers finally decided it was feasible and petitioned the War Department for approval. To the surprise of some cynics, the War Department gave the project a green light.
The reason the War Department enters the picture is because the Narrows bridge will straddle the vital shipping channel, the point of entry and departure for wartime as well as peacetime America. Scoffers could imagine the bridge after the first bombing raid—a fallen snarl of steel and cable plugging up the harbor.

But, according to high-rankers in the Authority, it would be virtually impossible to drop the bridge into the channel. Only a direct hit could snap one of the giant twin cables, a spokesman says, and a hit anywhere else on the bridge would not sink it. The Luftwaffe dumped some 1600 bombs on Scotland's Firth of Forth bridge and never did drop it into the water. And, the spokesman points out, even if a horseshoe hit should sink the bridge, experience has shown that modern salvage experts could cut away the knotted debris within 24 hours to pull the plug from the channel.

Rough estimates indicate the price tag on the Narrows bridge will be about $70,000,000, whereas the Authority would have to spend $100,000,000 or more in burying a tunnel under the channel. Such a tunnel would carry only four lanes of traffic and the bridge will accommodate six.

Anyone who has motored north or south through New York grasps the need for a crossing of some type at the Narrows. Today, the motorist must swing far west into New Jersey to by-pass the city, or jerk through the metropolitan traffic. Non city drivers emerge shaken and glassy-eyed from the Manhattan snarl. The bridge will make it possible for you to drive from a point north of New Haven, Conn., smack through the center of eight percent of the nation's population to Perth Amboy, N. J., without seeing a single stop sign or any cross traffic. You'll zip past 13,500,000 people without touching your clutch—if any cars have clutches by the time the span is completed.

For the Authority estimates that at least 10 years will pass before the first car rolls across the majestic arch. It will take years to dig up the necessary capital. About $20,000,000 must come from some outside source, and right now the Authority is offering prayers and petitions to the federal agencies of its rich Uncle. Then engineers will spend years designing the bridge, and finally the builders will toil for at least three years to
Twin traffic arteries, resting in the mud and the rock of the East River bottom, stretch south from Manhattan to Brooklyn. About midway, just off the tip of Governor's Island, one of the ventilation buildings reaches up out of the water. Big turbines churn air into the duct beneath roadway. Air moves up through ports in sides of the tunnel, then is sucked along the exhaust duct above roadway to be expelled upward through shafts in the building.
spin the span across the Narrows.

But officials speak fondly of the bridge as though it already were in existence. Glistening twin towers stretch 800 feet into the sky to support the center span, which soars outward to its mighty 4620-foot length. At the center point the roadbed hovers 237 feet above high water, permitting anything afloat or ever conceived to pass beneath.

One of the most exciting engineering problems ever posed is how to suspend such a span on a spider-web of cables. The bridge will feel as solid as a rock but actually will heave from the day of its birth. Engineers say you can't even feel a one-foot wave along a suspension bridge. When you bounce as much as three feet you can sense it but you still aren't in any danger. "Galloping Gertie" was the worst example of a dancing bridge. Tacoma's famous span waggled in rebellion from the first day of operation until four months later when she gave a final gasp which popped her cables and dropped her $6,400,000 body into the narrows of Puget Sound.

Engineers visualize no such difficulty with the ribbon across the Narrows of New York Harbor. The world's finest engineering minds will be consulted in drawing up the final plans.

Under capacity loads, the bridge could carry 20 million cars a year. That's welcome news to Gotham residents, especially Staten Islanders who still are dependent upon an antiquated ferry system to paddle them over to Manhattan. About 90 percent of the traffic which flows along the through routes of New York is local traffic, so any metropolitan motorist has a direct stake in the span.

He's vitally interested, too, in the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel—the first link between Manhattan and Brooklyn since the Manhattan Bridge was built in 1909—which will open its portals to him this month. Sand hogs drove it through the rock, muck and silt beneath the East River, a tunnel 8117 feet long between yawning portals, making it the longest vehicular tunnel in America and second only to England's Mersey Tunnel in the world.

Now the motorist will be able to cruise south along either side of slim Manhattan Island to its very (Continued to page 248)
Fish Population Is Tabulated Scientifically

Shortly before the last war, someone recalled that lightning, in striking the water, often stunned fish for yards around. Several of the more progressive state game and fish administrations began to experiment with electric shock, and a shocking machine to aid in counting and tagging was devised and made ready for a test. The shocker consisted of a gasoline-driven generator capable of delivering a steady flow of electricity with ample amperage to momentarily stun a fish. If a fish bumped into the electrical field established between the two poles bearing the electrical charge, he'd receive a hotfoot on an international scale and soon be still as death. The state of Colorado has developed the shocking unit to its highest degree, and the fish-and-game officials of that state have used the instrument with much success in taking a census of their trout streams. A crew of four or five men operate the shocker, which is portable, and since fish remain stunned for three minutes or more, the census takers have ample time to examine them.

Dash-Controlled Electric Locks for Car Doors

Controlled by a dash button, an electrically operated lock system prevents any car door from being opened as long as the ignition switch is turned on. The locks, one on each door, are instantly released when the control button is pressed. Concealed in the door posts, the locks prevent children from falling out while the car is in motion and also make it impossible for intruders to enter the car or open a door without the driver's permission. As soon as the engine is turned off, the locks release, allowing normal use of the doors.

Odorless wall paints, using no deodorants or perfumes to mask the scent, are now on the market, making it possible to occupy a room while the paint is still wet.
Power Cart Converts Into Garden Roller

Now combined into one power implement are a garden roller and a large dump cart. The little vehicle has a gasoline engine mounted above and between the two front wheels. The operator sits on a steel seat just forward of the rear wheels with the forward edge of the steel cart just beneath him. When desired, the cart can be slipped off and the heavy garden roller installed in place of the two rear wheels.

Floor-Board Remover

Old flooring, siding and sheathing can be removed easily, without damaging the tongue and groove, by a new-type salvage bar. A single motion raises the tongue side of the board and draws it outward, disengaging it from the adjoining board. It can be used astraddle single joists or next to double joists. Weighing 6½ pounds, the lever is 25 inches long, handles boards up to eight inches wide and has no moving parts.
MYSTERY

By Richard F. Dempewolff

TELEVISION screens, tuned in on a recent CBS spine-tingling "Suspense" show, darkened dramatically. People watching the show on home sets tensed as three video characters boarded an elevator high in a skyscraper. The camera viewed the inside of the car and withdrew as the doors slid closed. Suddenly there was a sharp crack of snapping cable. Fast-receding screams of passengers were heard. The dial atop the door spun as the car plummeted and crashed. An instant later, the audience saw the smoking, shattered wreckage inside the doomed cage. Passengers lay sprawled about. The bumper at the bottom on the shaft jabbed through the battered floor of the car. Metal sides...

TV engineers, like the one at the control panel (left) can combine images to bring front views of Toscanini and the choir he's directing to your set simultaneously, a view you will never get in the concert hall. Below, this is CBS' video studio in New York City.
were stove in. Sparks from an acetylene torch used by rescuers atop the cage came through the roof into the dusty interior. Instantly, the scene shifted to the top of the cab where rescuers frantically tore away chunks of metal.

All this speed, action and instantaneous change of effects was accomplished with real people on a life-size set in a space of about 10 square feet, located in a studio in the recesses above the vaulted ceiling of New York's Grand Central Station. One elevator car, a few "props," some tricky mirrors and two TV cameras did the whole job. How?

One camera was focused on the car. When the doors closed, prop men quickly shoved a specially made "bump," with curled and twisted pieces of simulated metal stuck around it, into the center of the car. Several catches were released, permitting pre-sprung metal sides to snap into distorted, broken position. Someone threw handfuls of flour in the air to serve as dust. Fire laws prohibit anything like an acetylene torch in the building, so a Fourth of July sparkler, accompanied by a hiss from sound effects, served the rescuers atop the car perfectly. In about three seconds, when the camera flashed to the inside of the car, it viewed a complete "wreck."

Meanwhile, camera number two was set up to take the scene above the cage through a periscopelike system of mirrors.

Today, the very limitations of television are bringing to it some of the most ingenious stunts production engineers have ever been called upon to perform. There's no space. Studios are cluttered with heavy equipment. TV cameras weigh upward of 150 pounds and can't be hoisted, lowered or juggled around easily. Besides, the floor is always strewn with a spaghetti maze of camera cable and batteries of ceiling and boom lights prevent moving a camera up for high shots even if you could hoist it there. That's how come the engineers invented simple periscope mirrors, suspended on a high, light frame. Clumsy pedestal cameras now can focus on the bottom mirror and get a "looking down" picture reflected from the top mirror. The same trick has been used in reverse to get a mouselike view of an NBC corpse on the floor.

"People expect the same effects they see in the movies," points out one engineer. "but they forget movie scenes are often shot 30 times to get an effect. Television is shot right now. What the camera sees on the first try, so does the audience."

The worst handicap of all, from the harried TV engineer's viewpoint, is the slim
budget with which he must work. When Johnny DeMott, now CBS' manager of program development, was special-effects man for Paramount, he handled the explosion of a mountain top in “For Whom the Bell Tolls” easily. He just bought a mountain—with a small town thrown in—at a total cost of $16,000. Then he planted 2½ tons of dynamite around the mountain top and blew the whole shebang to Kingdom Come, while cameras ground away for 30 seconds. TV can't afford that sort of extravagance. Total production budget for an average half-hour show is usually about $1100. Consequently, men like DeMott and Al Ostrander, head of the scenic department at CBS, must bristle with bright ideas.

To get a glittery effect for “King Midas” without buying expensive scenery and costumes, DeMott had the boys aim their cameras at the set through a bowl of jiggling lemon Jello. It worked like a charm. CBS needed hundreds of big iridescent bubbles to glamorize a musical production. Plastic bubbles, like those used in Hollywood and on Broadway for “The Great Ziegfeld,” would have cost more than the whole budget. So Johnny threw some detergent into a bowl of green soap, added a little glycerine and coloring and started pumping air in the mixture. “In 10 seconds,” he recalls with a chuckle, “everyone in the studio was pushing his way through tough, four-foot bubbles trying to find the doors. That studio was jammed to the I-beams with bubbles.”

Top, a bodyless head floats in a cloud of smoke for TV, but no magic is required. One camera shoots the smoking bowl, at left; another, the head, right; and combined they create the top scene.

Fog is made by placing Dry-Ice in a tray, left, and blowing over it steam given off by pails of hot water.
Dozens of such simple tricks are used regularly to fool the video audience with synthetic realism. Windows are given a frosted, wintry look simply by filling a bug sprayer with stale beer and Epsom salts and squirtimg the panes. A London fog can be raised in the studio just by fanning across a tray of Dry-Ice.

"We need the interior of a railroad car," DeMott was told one day. "But the scene must look like the train is really rolling. Can you do it?"

"I didn't know how, but I told him I could," says Johnny. So he built a "gloccamorra" and did it. The gloccamorra turned out to be a plywood wheel with S-shaped openings cut in it at intervals. This was hung in front of a spotlight aimed at the railroad coach set and turned by a motor. Every time one of the "S" openings passed the lamp lens, light snaked across the set, giving a perfect imitation of telephone pole and tree shadows whisking by as the stationary train "roared" along.

Since most TV stations are located in metropolitan office buildings, there are plenty of regulations that hem in the ever-harried producers.

One of the toughest problems faced recently by DeMott and Ostrander was a wharf scene in "Stolen Empire."

"It was a sort of dead-end set," says Ostrander. "To allow for the action, the scene had to be viewed from the river. That meant water and the people who run the Grand Central Building don't care for water on the floor." There's reason for their prejudice. A year ago, Johnny and Al staged an ice show in the studio. As the ice melted, gallons of water seeped through cracks and drizzled all over crowds of commuters in the main waiting room of the big terminal.

Ostrander, once technical director for Billy Rose's "Jumbo" and production engineer for Ringling Brothers, wasn't stopped, however. He built a huge metal tray, one inch deep, to cover the set floor. A mere five gallons of water filled it. Then he added oil, soap, sticks, cigarette butts, sweeping compound and a little paint to give it a typical river-front scum. An electric fan under the wharf swirled the surface like a flow tide. There were no wet commuters and the five-gallon river was easily pumped into a drain after the show.

Real fire in TV studios is out of the question, of course. Yet script writers are forever turning up with fire and explosion scenes. The boys have found ways to fake these, too. Explosions are usually engineered with flash powder and smoke bombs. For fires, they sometimes use the old stunt of paper strips and electric fans. But one of the most dramatic "fakes" was executed by Fred Coe, producer of NBC's Philco show. He had to televisor two men burning to a crisp in a big blaze. So he took movies in a burning building. Then, on the set, he simply set up smoke bombs. At show time, the two characters walked across the smoky set, cringed and crumpled. While one camera took this, another was televising the fire film. At the monitoring board, the control engineer superimposed both images and they were viewed on receivers as one hideous sequence of two men burning up in a raging fire.

Getting a girl to swim in a goldfish bowl was accomplished similarly by Johnny DeMott recently. He got a film of Eleanor
Holm Rose diving into a glass-sided tank and swimming underwater. Then, on show night, in the studio, one video camera took the film while the other shot through a real studio fish bowl against a black background. By imposing a semidissolve on each image and superimposing the pictures, the result was a beautiful sequence of Eleanor among the goldfish.

Production engineers are learning to use camera and electronic control-room tricks to achieve many new and startling effects. Behind the glass partition of the studio sit two men at panel control boards with enough dials and buttons to run the Queen Mary. In front of each man are two screens, which pick up the image from each of the two cameras. One of these men is the technical director, who can switch cameras as cues are called. The other is the video-control engineer, who does the fading, dissolving, mixing, superimposing and the like. He is the trickster. By changing the pulse, he can blank out the right half of the picture from one camera. A reverse pulse blanks out the left half from the other camera. Then he merges the result and sends out half an image from each camera, so the audience sees two scenes at once.

On the face of it, that sounds silly. But producers can use it. Today, split-screen shows allow Dunniger, televising from New York on half a screen, to act with a person in Washington who occupies the other half. Howdy Doody, occupying half the screen from Chicago, chats with Bob Smith on the other half from New York. NBC even ran a whole show especially written for a split screen. It was a series of phone conversations between a woman...
Split-screen shows, such as NBC’s “The Clock,” can be made from two cities, as shown here, if desired and a number of persons whom she called.

CBS, too, has run split-screen shows, using a simpler device and only one camera. The scenes were set side by side. The camera was aimed at the left-hand scene, but half the lens field was cut off by the edge of a mirror which reflected the right-hand scene into the other half of the camera.

Control-room tricks are almost entirely responsible for the weird effects on WNBT’s “Lights Out” program. Ghosts hover on the screen, crooked people squirm across the sets like creatures out of a Dali dream, heads without bodies hang in the air. How come? The crooked people are normal enough, but the sets are built off-angle. A simple prism on the lens straightens out the set but makes the people walk uphill and stand crooked. It also reverses the image and the cameraman has to think twice before “panning” or he’s liable to get a shot of workmen erecting next week’s set on the other side of the studio.

Corpseless heads are a simple matter. One camera takes a picture of a man draped in black velvet against a black background, while the other shoots the scene. The two pictures are merged—and lo, a head hovers over the set. Fred Coe, producer of NBC’s “Philco Television Playhouse,” used this system to turn a door knocker into Marley’s face for his “Christmas Carol” production a few months ago.

It’s tougher making a man walk through a wall, though the same principle is used. Two matching sets are constructed and two video cameras are used. The actor walks toward one wall. As he gets to it, the control engineer dissolves the image and switches to the second camera aimed at the similar set with no man. Presto, the man has disappeared through the wall. Great care is required at the control booth to keep both scenes in perfect register during these sequences. If the cameras aren’t aimed just right, the audience gets a double image.

There are other camera effects which, while principally designed to cut production costs, are also unusual. In Auto-Lite’s “Suspense” production of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, for instance, Ostrander had the camera play the part of Mr. Hyde. A hairy hand raised the potion to the eye-level camera lens and poured the brew into the “objective camera’s” mouth. The camera addressed people and became an actor. The same stunt went over again on another Auto-Lite Suspense show when the camera played the part of a gangster. An actor off stage spoke for the lens, reached for
objects, brandished and used a gun, which stuck out from under the big box in just the right place, banging away at the victim at whom the camera was looking.

Gun-banging, siren-screaming and background noises are just as important a part of television as they are of radio—and TV has added a few new problems for sound engineers.

Twenty-two radio-trained men manage the CBS sound-effects department, compactly arranged in a tiny space on a balcony overlooking the biggest studio in the Grand Central headquarters. Here, besides the usual array of turntables, is a built-in section of doors for slamming—screen, house, automobile—as well as windows, creaky hinges and the like. The boys love the resounding thud, squeak or rasp of the real thing.

All TV sound men must be on their toes and some are wizards. One tricky job is providing sound to be broadcast with silent films shot on location for parts of some shows like "Studio One" and "Suspense." Vic Ruebe, CBS dean of sound, got a late look at a film for a Studio One show. He viewed it once, then went on the air a few hours later with a perfect synchronization of sound and action. Cars screeched around corners, doors slammed, engines roared—all in the right places.

More than one sound man has saved the day by quick thinking. During a "Lucky Pup" show, a piece of monitoring equipment slipped and fell to the floor with a crash. The sound man immediately produced a series of thunder claps, while the glib star of the show grabbed the cue and ad-libbed cracks about the weather.

It doesn't always work out so well. In a production of "Julius Caesar," the chirping of crickets in a night scene kept chirping in a daytime scene that followed. "Kill the crickets," yelled the producer in agony. Only they couldn't be killed. The cricket chirps were being produced by loose bearings in a boom being wheeled around.

Darkest moment in the CBS sound room, however, occurred when action called for (Continued to page 258)
Binoculars Worn Like Glasses

Weighing only three ounces, a pair of binoculars with three-power magnification is worn like spectacles, providing a close-up view of action at the ball park, race track or theater. The nosepiece and temples are made of Tenite plastic for comfort and strength. The 25-mm. lenses are mounted in an aluminum frame and are easily focused with a single knurled wheel.

Plastic Watch Movement

Plastics seem to be everywhere and now they have invaded the watch-movement field. When the Hamilton Watch Company needed a giant-size watch movement for use in a promotional movie, it decided to make the watch of Plexiglas. Containing most of the parts of a real watch, the model, which actually keeps time, is arranged in a straight line to illustrate the flow of power.

Cigarette Won't Shed Ashes

There's no need for ash-strewn rugs, according to an inventor in Dusseldorf, Germany, who has developed a cigarette that won't drop its ashes. The secret of the hardy cigarette is its paper, made of glass fibers. While the tobacco burns, the paper keeps the ash intact. And the glass doesn't affect the taste of the smoke, according to the inventor.

In 1949, the United States produced 47 percent of the world's steel, a slight percentage drop from previous years.
Midget Sport Car

Added riding comfort and better road-holding qualities have been built into the new M. G. Midget British sport car. The 1950 model has knee-action wishbone and coil springs at the front and a rubber-sleeved rack-and-pinion steering gear. The disk wheels are smaller and the rear of the chassis slopes more gradually.

Army-Style Umiak

Wooden frame sections are assembled and covered with a nylon skin to form a 26-foot craft which the U.S. Army will use for sea rescue work. A modern version of the Eskimo Umiak, the boat is propelled by an outboard motor and is capable of eight miles per hour. It will carry a load of 11 men or 3000 pounds of cargo. The unit weighs 500 pounds and can be transported by five men.

Springs on Trailer Simplify Loading

Trailer bodies which tilt downward for loading tractors and farm implements are improved by coil springs that prevent the body from swinging upward in the wind. Kenneth Dibbern, Indiana farmer who installed the springs on his trailer, used a set from an old truck. As the tractor is driven on the trailer, the body drops to a horizontal position and locks itself automatically at the front end.
ENGINEERS could start construction this year of a rocket ship capable of zooming outward into space and reaching the moon, if some agency would finance the project. The basic principles of a moon rocket are understood; no major problems remain unsolved.

That is the opinion of Dr. Hsue-Shen Tsien, Goddard Professor at the Guggenheim Jet Propulsion Center of the California Institute of Technology. He reports that mankind even has enough basic knowledge to build a practical power plant for the interplanetary ship.

A Hollywood motion-picture studio, Pal Productions, has taken the scientists at
First men on the moon—movie version—prepare to investigate the moon’s crinkled surface with cameras and astronomical instruments. Featherweight equipment is easy to carry because gravity is so low. Below, craftsmen touch up skeleton model of rocket used in movie.

their word and dramatized the journey of a space ship to the moon. The studio assembled all available scientific information in filming a serious, although necessarily futuristic, movie of the round trip. The remaining question is—how futuristic? In nearly all respects the space ship and its journey are possible from the standpoint of present facts and evidence; the main departure from what already has been accomplished in rocket research is that the film ship is powered by an atomic pile. Any other engine would exhaust its fuel on the outward trip and leave its travelers marooned on the moon.

Engineers today could build a 10-passenger rocket that could whoosh from New York City to San Francisco in 45 minutes, if there were
enough demand for such speed to make it pay off in dollar bills. All the information needed for starting construction is at hand, according to Doctor Tsien, who has drawn up plans for such a craft.

Leaving New York at 12 noon, the winged rocket would beat the sun across country and would glide into San Francisco at 9:45 a.m., 2 1/4 hours ahead of the clock.

The transcontinental passenger carrier would be about 79 feet long and would weigh some 48 tons. Of its gross weight, 36 tons would consist of liquid hydrogen and fluorine fuel. All the fuel would be consumed during the first 60 seconds of travel, at the end of which time the rocket would be ascending at the rate of 9140 miles per hour.

Under that impetus, it would zoom 300 miles up from the earth and would then arch back into the stratosphere at about Des Moines. Enough momentum would remain for the rocket to level off and coast all the rest of the way to San Francisco on its stubby wings. A 5000-pound-thrust turbojet auxiliary engine would be turned on at the last moment to permit maneuvering for a landing at 150 miles per hour. The rocket would roll to a stop like a conventional aircraft, on wheels that would extend from along its side.

No transcontinental passenger rocket is on the drawing boards, but the general specifications for one have been drawn up by Doctor Tsien.

"All the basic problems associated with long-range rockets appear to be solved," Doctor Tsien remarks. "Only engineering details remain to be worked out. Difficult as these are, a solution will be found for each. Even a
space ship that could travel to the moon is no longer a fantastic idea. We have enough knowledge, including a practical power plant, to build a moon rocket now.

Passengers and crew members on a transcontinental rocket would not suffer any adverse effects from their fast trip. Presumably they would recline on acceleration couches to minimize the effects of the six-G pull that would last for one minute. During this period the flesh would sag back on their faces and they would have difficulty in moving their arms and legs. There would be a second period of heavy G at the time the rocket leveled off in the stratosphere for its long glide, after which the people could unstrap themselves and move about.

No human pilots could make calculations rapidly enough for steering the vehicle along its course. Navigation probably would be done by automatic high-speed thinking machines at check points on the ground. Plotting the trajectory by radar as the rocket approached a check point, the machine would figure out any deviation from the desired path, determine the amount of correction that was needed, and instantaneously transmit the correction to the automatic-steering equipment on the rocket.

The guidance problem is one of the reasons why transoceanic military rockets don't yet appear practical. A long-range rocket
that is armed with an atomic warhead or any other explosive is wasted if it misses its target. And there seems to be no way, so far, of making sure that a long-range rocket will pinpoint its objective unless check stations are set up along its course and at the objective.

Sunday supplement conceptions of long-range rockets all make use of handy atomic power plants but any kind of atomic propulsion still seems far in the future to the research people. An atomic hydrogen engine that would develop the same reaction that occurs in the sun would be very convenient but there seems to be no way of stabilizing the reaction. Investigators think that such an engine would simply blow up.

The fact is that atomic power isn’t needed for a rocket that could travel from point to point on the surface or that could escape from the earth’s gravitational field. Chemical fuels that already have been tested can do the job provided that 50 to 90 percent of the vehicle’s gross weight is devoted to fuel. That is the opinion of Doctor Tsien and most others in the field.

A combination of liquid oxygen and fluorine reacts furiously enough for the purpose, as does a combination of liquid hydrogen and fluorine. It is
Crew of the space ship reclines on body-shaped "acceleration couches" during the take-off to minimize the heavy six-G pull on their bodies.

unlikely that better chemical combinations will be found.

Caltech's jet-propulsion center is concerned mainly with theoretical problems and much of the actual basic experimental work is performed at a separate Caltech jet-propulsion laboratory. Although not directly connected with each other, the center and the laboratory are associated in

the same field. Together, the two research groups are said to have performed most of the basic rocket research that has been done in this country. One of the problems that has been studied, and solved, by the laboratory was to determine how to prevent a rocket motor from disintegrating from the terrific heat that is generated when the motor is firing. Once this problem seemed insurmountable but recent research indicates that it has been solved in principle. So-called sweat cooling of the motor walls is one possibility, film cooling is another. For sweat cooling, the motor walls would be composed of a porous metal through the pores of which a coolant liquid would be forced under pressure. The coolant would be constantly evaporated by the interior heat as it reached the inner wall, and it would be constantly replaced. The motor-wall temperatures would be held to safe levels.

Film cooling works somewhat similarly.

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Control compartment was dummied up for filming the movie, then tilted to provide the illusion of floating in space. Right, models depict the approach of rocket to the moon. Ship is guided in space by rocket bursts.
Track Shoes For Tractors

Tractors and other crawler-type equipment can walk on and off railroad tracks and can cruise along the tracks under their own power when fitted with track shoes that serve as guides. Used by Morrison-Knudsen Company and other railroad-maintenance contractors, the “on and off” plates eliminate the need for special locomotive-drawn work trains when small amounts of spot work along the right of way is to be done. The shoes are permanently attached to the crawler plates and do not impair their use off the tracks. Not only can a single tractor walk along the rails to a point where bank improvement or other work is to be done, it can serve as the motive power for a small work train that consists of miniature-wheeled flatcars on which draglines, power shovels and other heavy pieces of equipment are carried.

Instant-Release Tripod Attachment

It takes only a second to release your camera from its tripod for sudden action shots when you use a quick-acting lock attachment. An easily accessible plunger releases the camera, eliminating the awkward chore of unscrewing a hard-to-turn locknut. A grooved plug screws into the camera tripod socket and locks securely in the attachment. The device can be used on cameras of all sizes and types.

Trap Lures Flies Half Mile Away

Flies a half mile or more away are attracted to destruction in a jar-type trap that has been developed at Pewaukee, Wis. A metal shield, through which the flies enter, screws on to the top of the jar and a strong-smelling fluid and water mixture covers the bottom half inch of the jar. Because of its odor the trap should not be hung closer to a dwelling than 25 feet. For best results, it should be hung two to six feet above the ground in a bush, tall weeds or on a low tree branch. In a month and a half 30 traps in Pewaukee caught 105 quarts of flies.

Nylon Tire Tube

Reserve protection against punctures and blowouts, almost equal to that of the tire itself, is given by a new automobile inner tube made with two plies of nylon cord. The nylon construction built into the tube wall squeezes rubber around the puncturing object, preventing sudden flats. Despite its unusual strength, the new tube is extremely flexible and light in weight.

SEMIANNUAL INDEX AVAILABLE NEXT MONTH

A thoroughly cross-referenced index to the complete editorial content of POPULAR MECHANICS, January through June 1950, will be available about June first. To reserve your free copy of this valuable booklet, send 10 cents to cover mailing and handling, to the Bureau of Information, Popular Mechanics Magazine, 200 East Ontario St., Chicago 11, Ill., and you will receive your copy as soon as it is off the press.

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MILITARY implications of the hydrogen bomb lead us far into the unknown. The limitations of the human mind do not permit such an excursion without reference to or guidance from proven facts. It is not difficult to understand the capabilities of a 16-inch gun if one is familiar with those of a 12-inch one; but it is not so easy to understand them if one’s experience is limited to a brief acquaintance with a .22-caliber rifle. The destructive power of the atomic bomb, as it was exploded over Japan, and its influence on international affairs since then, gives us the foundation on which we can build our understanding of the hydrogen bomb.

I would like to emphasize first that no one really knows whether a hydrogen bomb can be designed and built; no one can say what effort would have to go into its manufacture; no one can be sure just how difficult it would be to deliver it on a target, nor exactly how great would be its power.

We do know, however, that the first atomic bombs were difficult to design and both difficult and expensive to manufacture. We know that although they were successfully delivered on enemy targets almost 2000 miles away from the take-off base, the enemy air defense was weak. We can say with certainty, that the single atomic bomb, model 1945, dropped on Hiroshima, not only effectively destroyed that city, but killed at least 70,000 Japanese and injured as many more. We also know that the radius of complete destruction of this bomb and of the bomb dropped on Nagasaki was about 1½ miles. Also, it is a fact that the development of the atomic bomb brought the war with Japan to a speedy conclusion, and that it thus saved thousands—possibly hundreds of thousands—of American dead and wounded.

Since V-J Day, the possession by the United States of the atomic bomb has greatly strengthened our international position, particularly with respect to Russia. This has enabled us to remain at peace and without the sacrifice of any of our American ideals.

When we try to anticipate the effects of weapons as powerful as the hydrogen bomb, we must face its possibilities calmly. We must assume that the hydrogen bomb can be made not only by us but by Russia; that it can be made at a not-too-excessive cost, giving due consideration to the economic capabilities of both nations; that it can be delivered on almost any target on the earth’s surface; and that its power will be at least several times as great as that of the atomic bomb. And, possibly—if we are to give credence to recent news reports—it will be as much as 1000 times as powerful.

If we are to explore the problem of the hydrogen bomb intelligently, we must not limit ourselves to the strictly military implications in strategy and tactics, but we must consider the effects in the realms of international statesmanship and of diplomacy, or, as is the case today, in that of the conduct of the cold war.

Only a few years ago we hoped—and most of the world hoped with us—that the victorious conclusion of World War II would bring with it lasting peace. The more optimistic among us thought that there would never again be even the threat of conflict. While our desire for peace may be as strong as ever, today we are doubtful as to its certainty. We have seen that there is at large in the world community, one nation, Russia, which is bent on dominating all others. Treaties, promises and agreements mean nothing to the men in the Kremlin unless they are to their own immediate advantage. We are faced today with the certainty that only the strength of the United States of America stands between Russia and the fulfillment of the Russian dreams of mastering the world. To put it bluntly, we are now faced with the choice of either ultimately submitting to Russia or of maintaining a strong and effective military policy. Our military establishment must be of such strength that Russia will remain convinced of our ability to resist any aggressive action on her part vigorously and successfully.

The ultimate aim of all military operations is the destruction of the enemy’s will or determination to fight or to continue his resistance. That aim was realized with the
use of the atomic bombs against Japan when, within eight days after the explosion of the first bomb, the surrender was complete. This was due to several factors, the chief of which was overwhelming surprise coupled with the feeling that loss of face would be minimized in a surrender to a foe possessed of such a weapon.

I do not believe that the use of atomic bombs in the future will bring about such a speedy surrender, unless the nation hit by them is lacking in courage and stamina.

Let us consider the effects of a possible atomic attack on a city such as New York. Seven well-placed atomic bombs or, possibly, one hydrogen bomb of several times the power of one atomic bomb, could effectively destroy downtown Manhattan and all of New York's water-front facilities whether in Manhattan, in Brooklyn or on the Jersey shore. Any attack of such power would effectively destroy New York as a source of military and economic strength to our country. A hydrogen bomb of 1000 times the explosive power of the atomic bomb would extend this destruction further into residential districts, would destroy more wealth and kill more people, but the military effect would not be much greater. A city like Washington would need only one hydrogen bomb to destroy it effectively as the seat of our government, instead of the three atomic bombs necessary to accomplish the same damage.

Since the conclusion of World War I, we have had with us the horrifying stories put out by the advocates of surprise aerial attacks. We have had pictured to us the thousands of bombing planes striking without warning other than that of strained international relations. And certainly no one has ever assumed that the relations would have to be more strained than those of recent years between Russia and ourselves. I believe that only behind an iron curtain could such attacks be prepared without some inkling of warning leaking out. Fortunately for us, and for those peace-loving nations which depend upon us for their protection from Russia's all-consuming desire for conquest, the iron curtain is still too far away to permit the mounting in the near future of any such large-scale attack. Today, it would even be difficult for Russia to make such a surprise attack with atomic bombs.

The development of the submarine, of the large troop-carrying airplane and of guided missiles, has brought the military safety of England through isolation to an end. Similarly, the further development of the long-range airplane and of the atomic bomb, coupled with the prospects of the hydrogen bomb, have impaired the military safety of our own continental United States.

With the development of the hydrogen bomb, even as few as five or six planes would be able to make an extremely damaging attack without warning. Let me hasten to add that I do not believe such an attack could cause us to surrender overnight, but it could greatly prolong the war which would ensue.

As long as the people of the United States remain in control of our government, we

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X-Ray Microscope

Internal details of materials through which light rays cannot pass are studied with an X-ray microscope developed by General Electric scientists. Still in the experimental stage, the microscope is expected to produce sharper images and higher magnifications than are possible with visible light. Unlike the electron microscope, the new type does not require that specimens be kept under a high vacuum, thus making it possible to examine living materials at higher magnifications than ever before. Even at the present stage of development, X-rays have produced 100-diameter magnification. The X-rays are beamed through the specimen and reflected from a pair of curved mirrors, which the rays strike at an angle. The mirrors bend the beams to cast a magnified X-ray image of the specimen on a photographic film.

Giant "Can Opener"

Steel drums of any size are opened in about one minute by a powerful head cutter that looks and works like a giant can opener. The cutter is placed on the top of the drum and, when the hand crank is turned, the cutting blade moves around the rim slicing off the head with no ragged edges. It can be used on filled or empty drums and the blade cuts about 1000 heads before it has to be resharpened.

Seedlings Without Setback

Transplanting plants grown from seed without setback and with proper depth, spacing and alignment requires great care. With a new-type tool designed to make life easier for the gardener, the small plants can be transplanted faster and with fewer losses. The device works like a pair of scissors, scoops up the seedling, makes a hole to the desired depth and sets the plant as the handles of the tool are spread.

In whisking off a single whisker, a razor blade exerts about five tons of pressure against the hair because the contact area is so small.
INDIANAPOLIS HOPEFULS

JET PLANES and rockets may grab the headlines most of the year in this supersonic age, but on Memorial Day the news spotlight swings to the speedsters that roar around Indianapolis Speedway for 500 grueling miles.

For the first time since 1934, a diesel racer is among the entries that will compete for a place in the starting parade. The Cummins Diesel Special, supercharged descendant of diesels that failed to win in 1931 and 1934, hopes to roar across the finish line ahead of its gas-burning rivals. Its six-cylinder engine, making 4000 revolutions a minute, is only 10 inches longer and 350 pounds heavier than the four-cylinder Meyer-Drake gasoline engines that took the first 10 positions in 1949.

Also seeking the champion's crown is the Kurtis-Kraft entry that finished second in 1949. This year, a new fuel-injection system may bring the sleek racer home in front of the pack.

Top, runner-up in 1949, the Kurtis-Kraft entry, with a new fuel-injection system, may win this year. Right, the engine in Ray Brady's car has a 20-degree slant to make room for its supercharger. Below, Cummins diesel racer under construction.
EVERY agricultural climate in the world can be reproduced in a new "phytotron"—plant-research laboratory—at the California Institute of Technology. In the numerous growing rooms of the super greenhouse its technicians have created a variety of conditions that include warm days, freezing nights, pea-soup fogs, hot desert winds and cloudbursts or drizzles of rain.

Known as the Earhart Plant Research Laboratory, the $407,000 structure was financed by the Earhart Foundation of Ann Arbor, Mich. It is administered by Dr. Frits Went, Caltech professor of plant physiology.

The building contains six air-conditioned greenhouses with glass roofs that admit daylight, 13 air-conditioned interior growing rooms illuminated by fluorescent and other lamps in the ceilings, and 11 darkrooms that simulate after-dark conditions. Each room is individually air conditioned to the air temperature and humidity desired.

By moving a group of test plants from room to room, from one environment to another, their reactions can be tested under such conditions as short cool nights and long hot days or the reverse or any other set of factors desired.

Instead of resting on permanent benches, the test plants are carried on small wheeled trucks and are moved from room to room in keeping with their separate schedules. Each truck carries on an upright steel arm a group of colored metal rings that tell at a glance at what hour the truck is to be moved and to what room. Time is measured in centidays, the 100th part of a day, and ordinary weeks, months and years do not exist in the laboratory. The only calendar is the number of days that have elapsed since the building was put to use.

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Scientist inspects door to autoclave chamber where all incoming materials are sterilized by steam heat.

With a tube nozzle from a nutrient supply line, a laboratory "nurse" feeds trays of young sugar beets. Left, in special wind tunnel in lab basement plants are subjected to a 20-m.p.h. breeze. Below, central switch panel helps control all sorts of weather conditions from arctic to desert throughout laboratory.
Underbelly Radomes

Added radar equipment has created bulging "waistlines" on two U. S. planes. A plastic-shell radome has been added to the underside of the Navy's carrier-based Sky-raiders to house radar antenna. A similar bulge beneath the new Air Force T-29, a navigational trainer, contains some of its 18 antennas. Four radomes on top of the fuselage are also provided for 14 students and instructors.

Smokeless Coal Furnace Operates on Downdraft

Because it uses a downdraft air supply instead of the conventional updraft, a coal-burning warm-air furnace is smokeless in operation. The furnace will operate 24 hours on one filling, eliminating frequent attention. The fuel magazine inside the furnace is filled to the top and, as the air enters through the feed door, the smoke is drawn through the hot coke bed at the grate level and is completely burned, resulting in smokeless firing. There are no motors, blowers or mechanical conveyors to get out of order since coal is fed by gravity.

Left, to show furnace design, the metal casing was removed and firebox cut away.
Golf-Ball Dredge

Golf balls are scooped from water hazards in large numbers by a paddlelike arrangement of weighted wood and metal strips, or blades. The balls are wedged between the blades as the device, invented by Jack Sawyer of Atlanta, Ga., is dragged through the water by ropes. It has brought in as many as 19 balls on one pull.

Skim Milk Makes "Horsehair" Fiber

Curled fibers made from skim milk have been developed as a substitute for horsehair in filters, upholstery and textiles. The process was suggested by the Department of Agriculture and developed by Arthur D. Little, Inc., and the Rubberset Company. The skim milk is solidified by an acid and the casein settles out as a curd. After the casein is dried, water is added and it is forced through fine jets. The resulting fiber is hardened, curled and dried to a "permanent wave." A mass of the fibers has a springy quality very similar to horsehair, which is more expensive.

Tree Hoist

Trees weighing as much as 3000 pounds can be moved in half the usual time by a new three-wheel unit with a tilting boom. It straddles the tree or hole and has a swiveling front wheel that can be swung up out of the way during long hauls, when hitched to a car or truck. The boom and cradle can be tilted 30 degrees forward or backward by a ratchet lever jack. A broad-band sling, adjustable to a maximum diameter of 50 inches, protects the tree ball and minimizes the need for burlapping. Rear wheels of the hoist are adjustable from 52 to 64-inch tread.
Mechanical “Quizzmaster”

When it's examination time at Pennsylvania State College, students merely punch buttons to indicate their answers to the quiz questions. A mechanical testing machine then records each student's reply, the score of the classroom as a whole and the reaction time in answering the question. The machine, a maze of wires, dials, lights and numbers was built at the college under the direction of Dr. C. R. Carpenter, professor of psychology. At his desk, each student has a covered answer box, which contains five selector keys.

When a question is asked, each student chooses the answer he believes is correct and presses the corresponding key which records his answer. The lights and dials show the professor at a glance how the class is doing on each question, thus indicating immediately the subjects which require a general review. After the students have irrevocably recorded their answers, the professor can give the correct reply, thereby teaching the students while they are being examined. After the class, each student can obtain his total score on the examination from an individual tabulator on the machine.
REVIVING a famous name in automotive history, the five-passenger Rambler convertible is the first of a new series of Nash cars. Designed to compete in the lowest-priced bracket, the new convertible features a number of safety items. Overhead protection is provided by two heavy steel side rails framing the tops of the side windows. These overhead chrome-trimmed rails form a strong structural bridge-beam for extra body rigidity and also carry built-in tracks for the electrically operated top. The top is push-button operated and is moved by nylon-coated steel cables. It can be secured at any position from closed to fully open. The flexible-plastic rear window folds without damage. Low center of gravity, without loss of headroom, is another safety feature. The Rambler engine, basically the 1949 Nash 600 power plant, is an 82-horsepower, six-cylinder L-head engine with a compression ratio of 1.25 to 1. The car is said to travel 30 miles per gallon of gasoline and farther with the optional automatic overdrive. Specifications include: wheelbase, 100 inches; over-all length, 176 inches; height, 59¾ inches; and weight, 2500 pounds.
WHAT'S NEW
For Your Home

CLAMP-ON TRAY, left, clips to the leg of a card table and keeps such hazards as ash trays and glasses out of elbow range.

CLIP RACK, lower left, has scores of uses. It screws into the wall and holds everything from screwdrivers to spatulas.

DISH DRIER, below, sends a blast of hot air over dishes to dry them in seconds. Oscillating head has a fan and heating unit.

WINDOW SASH is held up without weights by a small roller that has an automatic brake. When you push on window, brake releases.

GOLD DECAL is 23-carat gold leaf in sheets. It slips off its decal backing, below, to decorate furniture, left, or frames, above.
DISHES OR CLOTHES, it makes no difference to a combination sink that leads a varied life. Washdays, it is a spin-dry clothes washer that washes and dries in one tub, right. The rest of the week, you replace the clothes tub with a dishwasher, above.

NO-LINE CLOTHESLINE can be hung anywhere, providing as much drying space as 40 feet of regular line. Fastened to sides of frame are 54 spring-clip clothespins. The closely massed wet clothes cause a downdraft, bringing warm air down from ceiling to dry clothes fast. One hook holds it up and it is so light you can carry it in one hand. It also folds compactly for storage.

MAY 1950
British Jet Auto

British engineers present the answer to the problem of singed pedestrians and jet automobile engines with a turbine arrangement on the first jet automobile. The power plant on the test model, developed by the Rover Motor Company, Birmingham, is just ahead of the rear axle. It consists of a centrifugal compressor with dual combustion chambers having a single-stage compressor turbine and an independent power turbine. The engine burns kerosene. To start the car, you press an ordinary starter button on the instrument panel and the only control used from standstill to top speed is the accelerator pedal. A lever on the steering column operates the reverse gear. During tests, the car got away from a cold standing start in 16 seconds, attained a speed of 60 miles per hour in 14 seconds and hit 85 miles per hour with apparent ease. It makes no more noise than an ordinary car and this consists of a low whistle from the exhaust port. The test model, a gray sports coupe with air-intake ports on the sides behind the driver's seat, has a 111-inch wheelbase and a width of 52 inches. The company is still experimenting with the car and does not expect to be turning it out on a production basis for approximately 18 months.

1950 Crosley Sports Car Goes 50 Miles on Gallon of Gas

With a distinctly European look, the Crosley Super Sports car is designed to sell for less than $1000. The two-seater is powered by a light racing-type four-cylinder engine with a 7.8 to 1 compression ratio. This car will travel up to 50 miles on a gallon of regular gasoline, according to the manufacturer. Mechanical features include combined leaf and coil-spring rear suspension, strut-type hydraulic shock absorbers and hydraulic brakes. The folding bow top permits the forward part to be snapped onto the windshield while the top material is slack. The bows are pressed into position to tighten the top.

("Keep right" is the traffic law in 101 nations while 85 countries enforce a left-hand rule.)
Under-Tractor Mower

Installed between the tractor wheels, a new rotary mower cuts vegetation from ordinary lawn grass to corn stalks and saplings. The mower has three 22-inch knives which whirl in unison to cut a 58-inch swath through grass, hay, weeds and brush. The individual blades are driven from the power take-off by a chain and V-belt drive. Chains dangle from the front edge of the mower to separate brush and weeds, preparing the stalks for the blades which pulverize the cuttings and drop them back on the ground. The mower is adjusted by a hand-controlled worm gear.

Shaft-Driven Motor Scooter

Built in Italy, a speedy little motor scooter has a three-speed automobile-type transmission instead of belts or chains. Power from the little motor is transmitted through a flexible shaft and bevel gears. The scooter holds all official speed records in its class. Safety features of the vehicle include a hand-operated clutch and two-wheel brakes. The rear section, including the saddle, gas tank and baggage compartment, can be swung out of the way to reach the motor and transmission. Springing for the rear wheel combines a coil spring with a hydraulic shock absorber. Top speed of the commercial model of the scooter is about 50 miles an hour, and it will travel 110 miles per gallon of gas at lower speeds. The approximate weight of the scooter is 121 pounds.

Ultrasonic Iron
Solders Aluminum

Aluminum and other light metals and their alloys are soldered easily without flux by an ultrasonic soldering iron that uses high-frequency sound to destroy the oxide film on the metal. The removable copper bit is heated by a conventional resistance winding. It is securely mounted in the core of the transducer, which is powered by an electronic amplifier. The ultrasonic frequency that breaks down the oxide barrier is well above hearing range. The iron was developed in England.

MAY 1950
LIKE SOME prelude to doomsday, a wave of sound rolled across the Texas prairies three years ago. Miles around the Navy's ramjet laboratory in Daingerfield, a lot of Texans had the self-satisfaction scared out of them. Thunderous vibrations cracked dishes in closets eight miles away. People in the vicinity couldn't shout above the continuous roar and be heard. The rumor got around that the Navy was fiddling with atomic power. "Nothing but splitting atoms could make so much noise," they argued. It seemed logical.

All that racket, however, was coming from a thin steel tube no more than 18 inches in diameter and weighing 300 pounds—one little ramjet engine, the mighty midget power plant whose actual performance is one of the most closely guarded of military secrets.

For years, research on the ramjet's performance was delayed. No one could figure

In the control room, engineers work at top speed during the test. Adjustments are critical since one degree too much heat might explode the whole works. The man in the business suit calls signals for the test run.
for a Super Blowtorch

a way to enclose it in a conventional wind tunnel, with proper testing gear. Nor could materials be found to stand the gaff. Hot 4000-degree gases spewing from its fiery tail at supersonic speeds couldn't be exhausted fast enough from any known tunnel. The first lab at Daingerfield, operated by Consolidated-Vultee for the Navy, consisted of an outdoor test rack. The unbelievable noise and vibration not only limited observation by engineers, but raised Cain among frightened residents near the lab.

So, when Wright Aeronautical Corp. contracted to produce bigger and better midgets at its plant in Wood-Ridge, N. J., last year, engineers knew they'd have to put a soundproof strait jacket on their rams.

Now they've done it. The new lab consists of a monster steel tank, 12 feet in diameter, 96 feet long and honeycombed with water-cooling chambers. Huge turbine compressors pump 140 tons of air an hour into the tank, to simulate flight speeds up to 2600 miles per hour—four times the speed of sound. The rushing wind passes through a surge chamber to reduce turbulence. Pressure control can simulate altitudes up to 80,000 feet (15 miles) inside the tank.

To exhaust voluminous fumes, high-pressure steam, at 150 tons an hour, roars through the exhaust chamber and out through ports that lead to three 45-foot silencer stacks.

The tank is suspended on coil springs to eliminate ground vibration and the whole unit rests on wheels and tracks, since the incredible heat of a busy ramjet causes the test chamber to expand about one inch along its 96-foot length.

Engineers had planned, if necessary, to cover the whole business with earth to drown the noise. They didn't have to. All you hear today is the hiss of steam and a faint rumble, like the sound of a distant train, as the ram surges against its bonds,
trying to take off with the entire works.

Basically, the ram is a simple tube with a center body hung in the middle. Rushing air ramming in at the nose is squeezed in the middle of the tube and expands suddenly in the rear. Tremendous additional expansion is created by continuous ignition of fuel at the rear. All these gases rush out the back end at something like 3000 feet a second, thrusting the unit forward at staggering speeds. In order to ram enough air into the front to sustain proper combustion, the ramjet can’t begin to operate until it’s already moving at about 250 or 300 miles an hour. It begins to operate efficiently at about 750 miles an hour!

How fast will it go? The military isn’t telling, but there have been reports released from places like White Sands of speed “in excess of” 2500 miles an hour.

You get some idea of the potential when you know that a 20-inch ramjet might generate 42,000 thrust horsepower. A 40-incher might whip up about 100,000 thrust horses, which is about one third of the oomph provided by all the massive engines in the Queen Mary.

Now, with enclosed test chambers, like the one at Wood-Ridge, research engineers work to the steady dull rumble in the big tank and watch what’s happening through double-quartz ports. At control desks in the test lab next to the big chamber, they watch dials, push a few buttons and in 30 seconds altitude pressure of 30,000 feet is attained.

So fast do things move that, in the lab, a test “quarterback” stands behind the operators shouting rapid-fire signals as his eyes jump from dial to dial. “Give me two more inches of mercury. . . . Give me one ejector. . . . Close the by-pass. . . .” It’s a hair-raising performance.

But the ramjet boys are getting at a dozen problems at last. Keeping a jet burner going in a 2000-mile gale is something like keeping a match lit in a hurricane. They’re licking it. Soon, a periscope will lead from inside the chamber to the lab. They’ll be able to see exactly what’s happening under all conditions.

“We’re even hoping to set up color television,” says Wright’s engineering manager on the project, “so we can watch close-ups of jet performance by remote control.” Engineers at Wright have a confident look. They’ve got the mighty midget by the tail—and the limit? The sky, of course.
Barnyard Hay Gun

Farmers can speed the work of storing baled hay in the barn with a pneumatically operated cannon that fires the hay into the loft. The gun is placed 10 to 15 feet from the opening through which the bales are to be shot. In tests, a two-man crew handled 7.7 bales a minute with the gun, compared with 3.2 bales with a conventional grapple fork. The gun will throw a 58-pound bale 21 feet vertically and 48 feet horizontally at an angle of 60 degrees. About two percent of the bales were broken in the test, whereas 3.4 percent were broken when hauled to the mow and dropped from a grapple fork.

Rustproof Paint
Sprayed Through Flame

Anticorrosion paint, heated and sprayed on by a new technique, produces protective coatings tested to last 15 years or more—three times longer than those applied by present methods. The combination was developed in Germany and perfected in Sweden. The paint is made without solvents, permitting inclusion of rust preventives that cannot be dissolved in them. Tough and waxy at room temperature, it is melted in a spray gun by electrical resistance and sprayed through a flame so that the mixture bonds intimately with the metal or material, hardening immediately. It has none of the pores which develop in ordinary paints as the solvents evaporate. The combination permits application on wet or damp surfaces, since the flame dries the receiving area, and at any temperature.

Rescue Techniques
For Atomic War

Civil defense and fire-fighting teams are being given practice in England on new techniques for rescue work in bombed cities. One new method is an adaptation of the breeches buoy, the victim being lowered from a tall building on a stretcher suspended from a pulley that runs along a cable. The students at the training school will be instructors in a nation-wide defense organization to be created among civilians in England.

Since 1940, five states have had a population decrease, with Montana showing the largest drop.
WHETHER or not there actually are flying saucers, as observers have reported, there is nothing wrong with the principle of a rotating-disk aircraft. That's the conclusion of Dr. E. W. Kay of Glendale, Calif., who is testing a flying disk of his own design.

Doctor Kay estimates that a jet-powered flying disk 18 feet in diameter could rise like a helicopter and fly forward at about 400 miles per hour. The wide rim would rotate at 500 revolutions per minute but the cabin or fuselage would not spin.

His present model is 41 inches in diameter and consists of an aluminum-and-magnesium rim that is built around a central cabin, inside of which is an electric motor. The rim is spun at 400 revolutions per minute by means of a ring gear and the motor also powers a small conventional propeller for achieving forward motion. The model has a large stabilizer rudder, a feature that would be eliminated in the proposed jet-powered flying disk.

Lift comes from eight vanes or airfoils that fit into slots in the disk and that are arranged like the blades of a fan. The vanes are hinged at each end and their angle of attack varies with the speed at which the disk rotates. When a pair of governor weights on the whirling rim is moved outward by centrifugal force, a collector ring to which they are attached increases the angle of attack of the vanes. The vanes are secured in an open position in the test model.

Left, Dr. E. W. Kay and 41-inch flying-disk model he designed. Its main operating features are labeled. The inventor has completed drawings for an 18-foot, one-man disk that he hopes to build.
With the present vane setting, the model takes off like an airplane after a short run and flies around a post, at the end of an 18-foot arm, at speeds up to 72 miles per hour. A higher vane setting, would reduce or make unnecessary the take-off run.

Doctor Kay has designed several experimental aircraft. His interest in flying disks was aroused by reports of the so-called flying saucers and he decided to experiment to determine whether the design had merit. Several models proved to be unstable before he arrived at the present design.

Structural difficulties would limit the disks to a maximum diameter of 50 feet, he believes, but these would have enormous weight-carrying possibilities. Their principal value, in his opinion, would be their high top speed in relation to slow landing speed, a combination that no even the helicopter achieves. Doctor Kay hopes to begin construction of an 18-foot, one-man model soon.
Compact Copying Camera

Small enough to fit in a briefcase, a new copying device will even make prints from a book page where the paper curves into the binding. Making this possible is a translucent plastic cushion which is inflated to follow the contours of the material being copied. Six bulbs inside the device provide illumination and they can be used on regular electric lines or with flashlight batteries. A special “slow” photographic paper is used, permitting the device to be used under normal room lighting. The finished print, processed like any photo print, is a reverse of the material. A mirror, attached to the copying device, permits the operator to read directly from the negative print. If desired, this negative can be recopied, producing a positive.

Ceiling of Light

Fluorescent lamps mounted above translucent plastic sheets create a luminous ceiling that eliminates dark corners and reflected glare. This innovation in lighting was developed for schools and industrial buildings by the lighting committee at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Experiments conducted by the committee showed that this type of lighting produced the best condition for equal brightness at every spot in a room. Fluorescent lamps are mounted on a white painted plaster ceiling and two feet below them the plastic sheets are suspended to form the “ceiling of light.” Between the groups of lights and extending below the plastic sheets are seven-inch-deep acoustical pads which compensate for the smooth surface. Installation costs for the ceiling are about the same as for any modern lighting system.
WANDER WAGON

BUILT on the chassis of a modern delivery truck, a self-powered home on wheels has all the comforts of a house trailer. The interior of the traveling home is 71 inches high, six feet wide and 15 feet long. The cab, built over the engine, has armchair seats for the driver and one passenger. Just aft of the driving compartment are two lounge seats with a table between them big enough to seat six hungry travelers. At night the table can be dropped down to fill the gap between the lounge seats and covered with seat cushions, thereby forming a double bed four feet wide. In the galley are a kitchen sink with a 14-gallon water tank, an icebox, storage cabinets and a butane gas range. A separate compartment holds a lavatory, and a shower tank and curtain can be installed in one of the step-wells. Ten suits on hangers, as well as two or three suitcases, can be stored inside the clothes closet. A portable awning can be erected beside the vehicle to serve as a “front porch.” The ventilating windows are equipped with Venetian blinds; door and windshield are fitted with pull shades.

Top, food is prepared in “kitchen” and served on table between lounge seats. Above, at night the table fills gap between seats to form double bed. Below, luggage can be strapped atop vehicle
Unspectacular, perhaps, but one of the wonders of this machine age is...

Two men handle the bow-type chain saw as it slices through logs as though they were paper. Below, one-man chain saw with various parts labeled. Bottom strip shows details of the standard and chisel-tooth chains.
The Chain Saw

By

Robert D. Page

TREE SURGEONS have to travel light as they scramble among the upper limbs of a tall tree, where one false step may mean death. That's why, if anyone had predicted not too many years ago that these sure-footed human cats would be carrying a gasoline engine to do the muscle-work of sawing limbs, that prediction would have been laughed off as fantastic.

But today the fantastic is already familiar. Making it possible is that ingenious item called the chain saw. Ranking with the important production tools, the chain saw is an endless cutting chain, powered by a gasoline engine or electric motor, that cuts to seconds the job of slicing off a tough limb.

Small chain saws, weighing only 25 pounds, are helping the farmer clear land, cut his own fence posts, saw up firewood and other chores. Construction crews use them to speed production. Loggers use them to trim off branches.

But not all chain saws are small. There are huge, 12-horsepower machines that fell the giant trees of the Pacific Northwest. These powerful giants are two-man machines and, while they may take away some of the glamour of the woods, they get the trees down and to the mill faster and that's what counts.

A one-man chain saw does the work of three to six men using hand tools. The larger models do proportionately more work. All of them are powered by lightweight, air-cooled engines that develop tremendous power for their weight.

Lightness is coupled with strength by the use of magnesium castings. High-strength alloy steels are used in critical parts. Many of the pieces are airplane-type die castings. On some machines, excess weight has been reduced to a point where the handle bars act as oil reservoirs.

One tug on the recoil starter knob, which has the cable permanently attached, quickly starts the high-speed engine by spinning it several revolutions. The starter then automatically rewinds itself, so it will be ready for the next use. The clutch for the chain is a centrifugal, automatic type in most cases. Controls are grouped conveniently for safety and ease of access when the saw is used in awkward positions. Quick starting in cold weather is assured by a push-button primer pump and an efficient magneto ignition.

The saw will cut at any angle, even when inverted. This is done by swiveling the cutting unit or the rear handle on some machines. Some engines will operate upside down due to fuel pump and metering-jet construction.

In chain-saw language, you hear such terms as felling or falling, bucking, under-bucking, limbing (trimming off branches)
and ripping. In felling, a wide undercut is first made, then sawing proceeds from the opposite side. A wedge is driven into the kerf if necessary.

Some chain saws are converted for two-man operation by attaching an outer handle or tailstock to the end of the cutter bar. Bars or blades range from 14 inches to 108 inches in length. Engines are all two-cycle, one or two cylinders, and turn up 3000 to 4500 revolutions a minute.

The cutting chain is driven by a sprocket through a compact transmission and clutch. A groove around the narrow cutter bar guides the links of the chain or on some machines, the links straddle the bar. The low teeth, or rakers, do not cut, but simply rake the cut clear of chips.

In operation, a chain saw emits an angry buzzing sound, as the chain cuts through the wood.

Another engineering triumph, the chain saw has taken its rightful place among man's mechanical slaves.

Weighing only 25 pounds, this chain saw makes tree surgery quick work. Below left, a yank on the starter cable is all that's needed to start the engine. Right, "bucking" a log into short lengths with a chain saw.
Mobile "Water Boy"

Thirsty athletes always get good drinking water under sanitary conditions from a portable bubbler mounted on rubber-tired wheels. A far cry from the old "bucket and ladle" days for sports teams, the water can be iced and it spurts from two jets. The bubbler weighs about 15 pounds and holds five gallons, ordinarily enough to last an entire football game.

Hybrid Pines Save Forests

Hybrid pine trees are expected to help rebuild the burned-out and cut-over areas of America's forests. According to Victor H. Schoeffelmayer, agricultural consultant of the Southwest Research Institute, the seedlings of these trees will outgrow parent trees by 100 to 300 percent in height and by more than that in volume.

"Wing Decks" Increase Capacity of Bridge

Cantilevered wings would be added to each side of the upper roadway of the huge San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge by a proposal that seeks to increase the capacity of the transbay crossing without the expense of building a new parallel bridge. Already overcrowded in rush hours, the present bridge is considered entirely inadequate for the demands that will be made on it within 10 years. Each wing deck would be surfaced with lightweight concrete or asphalt slabs laid on aluminum battle deck to minimize the weight and each would carry two lanes of traffic. The existing six-lane roadway would be reduced to four lanes so that a safety mall could be built along the roadway's center line. On the lower deck, which now carries three lanes for trucks and two lanes for interurban electric cars, the truck lanes would be reduced to one in each direction and the rail system would be replaced by two lanes for cars and busses. The net result would be a total of 12 traffic lanes instead of the present nine. The changes would cost approximately $50,000,000, about one third the estimated cost of a new bridge, and would increase the bridge's possible capacity from the present 5320 vehicles per hour to 8990 vehicles per hour. The present bridge and a parallel structure, it is estimated, would have a combined capacity of 10,500 vehicles per hour. An engineering survey indicates that no difficult structural problems would be encountered in the change.
Dry-Ice Calms "Hot Headed" Well

When an oil well seven miles out in the Gulf of Mexico threatened to blow out because of tremendous oil and gas pressure, it was sealed by freezing it with Dry-Ice. Mud was pumped into the pipe and pulverized Dry-Ice packed around it. In two hours, the mud had frozen solid, making an effective seal against the pressure below. The quick freeze allowed time for the crew to apply standard pressure controls.

Spark Plug Has Jet-Firing Action

Producing a jet-firing action that results in instantaneous combustion, a spark plug with a baffled firing chamber is said to produce more head compression and increased horsepower. The spark gap is adjusted by a screw-in center electrode and can be set with the plug in the motor, if desired. To adjust the gap, you screw down the center electrode until it "bottoms" on the inside of the baffle. By unscrewing the electrode one full turn, you open the gap to .030 inch. A locknut holds the electrode, keeping the gap at the proper point.

Mechanic Uses Head To Hold Flashlight

You always have light where you are looking when you use your head to hold the flashlight. An adjustable "cap" with a pivoting rack in which the flashlight is strapped keeps the light beam aimed on the work. Motorists, sportsmen and craftsmen will find the light holder handy because it leaves both hands free.

Ultrasonics Clean Metal

High-frequency sound waves, pitched too high to be heard, remove grease from metal quickly. Cleaning operations which now require an hour to perform are completed ultrasonically in 10 seconds. Electricity requirements, however, will keep this handy tool out of the housewife's cleaning kit for years to come.
Bike Rack

Bicycles are held upright and can be locked in a new rack that fastens anywhere with screws. Made of heavy spring steel, it can be attached to walls or floors of the garage or house.

Tubing Clamp

Designed for attachment on slotted-steel channels used in building construction, a handy clamp holds tubing from 3/16 to one inch in diameter. The spring-steel clamp fastens each tube individually, holding it in place, but permitting expansion and contraction. Since the clamp is easily installed on the channel or removed from it, the tubing can be quickly respaced, relocated or eliminated.

Individual Bait Boxes

Fishermen can now buy as little pork as they want for bait, using individual rings sealed with brine in transparent-plastic envelopes. They are more convenient to carry and prevent rust in tackle boxes from leaking jar lids.

Miniature Addressing Machine

Printing from a roll of master paper, a hand-operated addressing machine transfers hand-written or typewritten addresses onto cards, envelopes or labels with one rolling motion. The paper roll, which goes into the machine the way a roll of film goes into a camera, holds up to 250 addresses of as many as six lines each. A wick inside the machine holds enough liquid for one complete run and the roll will make about 100 impressions before it has to be replaced.
Transcribed Prescriptions
Druggist J. Robert King of Huntsville, Tex., doesn't worry about faulty note-taking when doctors telephone prescriptions because he makes a recording of the doctor's voice as it comes over the wire. By doing this, King is able to play back the conversation and recheck his notes, assuring the customer of correct prescriptions.

"Frameless" Hacksaw Makes Inside Cuts
With no conventional frame to limit its action, an unusual hacksaw can make cuts of unlimited length, make circular inside cuts and get into tight spaces. Shaped like a long-barreled pistol, the saw cuts as the blade is forced forward beyond the supporting frame. Return strokes are automatic, the blade being brought back by a spring built into the frame. There are no holding pins to bend or break.

Electric Eraser
Spinning 3000 times a minute, an electric eraser won't burn or tear paper. It also has a sanding disk for sharpening pencil or compass leads and a ball-point burnisher that smooths erased areas for perfect reinking. The eraser weighs only 12 ounces and has a vibrationless motor to permit accuracy in erasing fine detail.

Atomic Research Establishes Dates Of Ancient Civilizations
Radioactive carbon in samples of wood, plants and charcoal from ancient Mexican civilizations may help establish an accurate calendar of prehistoric dates. Scientists at the University of Chicago's Institute for Nuclear Studies, where tests are being conducted, have developed a method of determining dates by checking the Carbon 14 in the remains of once-living organisms.

Rotary Grip for Tools
Hand-tool users are protected from blisters and skin bruises by a rubber sleeve and revolving rubber-cap grip. It permits the tool to be turned against a swivel top rather than against the flesh. The sleeve fits handles from one to 1 ¼ inches in diameter.
A CROSS the frozen tundra they roared, like a collection of suddenly derailed freight trains. Their heavy diesel tractor engines snorted and bucked over the drifts, raising individual snowstorms as a howling gale snatched at the white powder snow kicked up by special, deep-biting grousers on their spinning tracks, and sent it swirling into the Arctic sky.

Weaving and rocking behind each pitching monster came its train of strange-looking tow vehicles. There were flat-top sleds laden with fuel oil; stake sleds piled high with odd cargo—sections of experimental portable shelters, arctic clothing and food; sleds that looked like cabooses, carrying compact living quarters or wanigans, lashed to their backs.

Out on the barren wastes in advance of the trains, reconnaissance vehicles on half-tracks and skis scooted like demented beetles, searching for ice cracks, rocks, air spaces and thin spots through which the heavy tractors and sleds of this new polar Army might plunge or founder into icy water.

Where did all this happen? The location is still a military secret, as are many other things about the operation. Enough that it's a long way up there and mighty chilly.

What's it all about? For several years, tough military men in fur-lined parkas, with grease-covered faces pinched by a wind-whipped frigidity ranging to 60 degrees below zero, have been making the northward trek with an assortment of fantastic track and ski vehicles and other equipment devised by the Army's Transportation Corps Board for arctic use. During the hush-hush missions, this equipment is being tested the rugged way, and our military forces are learning how to operate in a climate where water freezes as it's poured from a bucket, and where the best way to heat a pot of stew outdoors is with a blowtorch.

When T. C. Board investigators returned from their preliminary reconnoiter several years back, they held their heads. It was Down she goes! A tractor breaks through thin lake ice and settles into three feet of icy water. She was hauled out with a winch

MAY 1950
Newest and speediest work horse of the Arctic is an Army half-track with Caterpillar treads on front wheels.

"impossible," they said, to operate up north.

In that frosty world a wooden gunstock freezes to a man's cheek the minute he presses it there to fire. The shock of a simple flesh wound can kill a greenhorn who hasn't the sense to get indoors. Perspiration from the least exertion will freeze clothes solid in a few minutes.

The toughest problem of all, however, was modification of vehicles to enable ground forces to move themselves and their equipment across the desolate wastes. On heavy snow, glare ice and spongy muskeg, plain wheels are about as practical as bare feet. Engines become solid chunks of cold metal, bearings and moving parts freeze. Oil flows like thick glue and grease is solid.

Now, however, from the engineering drafting rooms of the T. C. Board, located in huge gray buildings of the New York Port of Embarkation, and from the Ordnance Department of the Corps of Engineers, have come vehicles and equipment that are licking the Arctic Army's transportation problem.

Last winter, when 136 tough, hand-picked men, trained in arctic survival, were ready for another "go" at the north country, there were few hitches.

Special trains, hauled by modified diesel locomotives with special heaters, hauled the mission as far north as the tracks would take them. Here, the railroad crew dug in for winter rail-supply operations. A knockdown shelter, like a big metal igloo, became the repair shop. This new arctic unit consists of prefabricated interlocking aluminum arch panels, about two feet wide. They are double-sided, with a honeycomb core. Lashed down with cables, the sections form a shed 72 feet long and 30 feet wide—big enough to accommodate any of...
Pictured in action is the first helicopter designed specifically for arctic rescues. Air Force has ordered a number of them. Seating 20, 'copter can land on snow, ice, water, marsh or land with some landing gear

the locomotives. The boys, working in sub-zero weather, and using a boxcar for a scaffold, had it up and operating in three days. It withstood 70-mile gales, and throughout the long arctic winter was kept warm inside with a single oil heater.

In previous years the rail men had trouble getting around on the ice-encrusted tracks with their maintenance car. It kept jumping the rails. This time, the vehicle sported quarter-inch brazed rims around its wheels, which bit into the ice and sent it popping off the rails several feet ahead of the zipping car.

While the base camp prepared its living quarters in converted sleeping, dining, recreation and kitchen cars—with outdoor sewers that were steam-heated to prevent freezing—the "road" Army headed for the open wilderness.

Basic unit of the new Army is the sled train, adapted from the commercial bush haulers who have been toting trapper and Indian supplies back and forth across the frozen tundra this way for years. But no bush hauler ever saw sled trains like these! Monster tractors haul them. The M4-A1, a 20-ton, full-track affair with curved grousers along its extra-wide tracks, looks like a tank from Mars. Completely enclosed, and with powerful heater, it can pull a train of seven sleds across almost any kind of country.

Just as impressive are the big 18-ton

Big freight sled which tipped over when a runner hit soft snow is righted with the aid of a tractor's winch
standard commercial tractors, with 30-inch tracks, big heaters and simple canvas enclosures around the drivers. The men have solved the problem of freeze-up largely by keeping the engines idling continuously. But the diesels are equipped with warm-up heaters, too. If these don't work, the men build a fire under the vehicle, and shoot a blowtorch flame into the carburetor downdraft to make the frigid fuel vaporize. That usually does it. "But," says the expedition's chief engineer, "the technique is not recommended for civilian practice unless suicide is contemplated."

Behind the tractors, on 24-foot sleds with bob runners, comes all the equipment it takes to run an arctic mission. The last sled on the train usually carries the arctic version of an automobile trainer on skis. Known as a wanigan, this 8 by 24-foot "house" rides pick-a-back on a flat-top sled. It contains, as one Army man puts it, "four bunks, a refrigerator, coal stove, latrine, folding table, sink and built-in cold metal window frames. "Our wet mukluks froze to the floor every night," one of the men recalls with a shudder, "and the crowded quarters were a constant mess of oily clothes, ashes from the coal range, and bad smells. But when the temperature was 50 below, with a good wind howling, it didn't seem half bad."

To eat in a wanigan being dragged across country is basic training for a juggler. The Army has tried many stunts to make wanigans move easily across the snow. Some are equipped with Caterpillar tracks which are fine until they pick up moisture and the bogeys jam with ice and snow. The most practical versions ride the sleds, but even these are not up to knee-action. The roughest deal for the men comes in the morning when the tractor breaks the runners loose.

As a train rides, friction of the runners melts the snow a trifle, forming a thin film of water between them and the riding surface. This is what makes any sled glide effortlessly. At the halt, however, this film...
freezes instantly and every sled in the train is firmly glued in place. To break the hold the tractor yanks the first sled loose, backs in the train and whacks the second loose, pulls up and jolts the third loose. Meanwhile, every man in the wanigan caboose is fighting to stay on his hands and knees, and swearing like a trooper. By the time the tractor backs in again to bump the wanigan sled free, any loose pieces of china or shattered false teeth may be disposed of out the rear door, or the escape hatch in the roof with which every wanigan is equipped for exit in case of emergency or submergence.

Even foolproof tractors and sturdy sleds may overturn or crash through ice. Loose brush kicked up by the sied runners has a nasty habit of jabbing through the wanigan floor. So, there's plenty of outdoor work for the men.

The Navy has determined that the efficiency of a man drops two percent with every degree drop of the mercury below zero. To work in sub-zero, men must wear bulky clothing that encumbers them further. Yet they mustn't overexert

(Continued to page 260)
Testing Tackle on Mermaids

Members of the Tuna Club at Long Beach, Calif., tell about “the one that got away” with added sighs these days. They tested their skill and fishing tackle on a group of expert girl swimmers recently and landed only two. The mermaids, each wearing a harness attached to a line testing 18 pounds, were given a good start before the anglers applied pressure to their reels, in an effort to slow them. Where game fish fight back without reasoning, sometimes turning toward the boat and permitting recovery of the line, the female “fish” struggled intelligently, forging steadily away from the anglers. Some lines popped and the unleashed girls swam triumphantly back to the fishing float. The winning angler was William Pigg, using the same technique with which he landed a 175-pound world-record marlin on a nine-pound line. He landed his swimmer, who got almost 100 yards from the float.

Static Alarm Guards Against Explosions During Surgery

Static electricity has always been a hazard in operating rooms because it can set off an explosion of the anesthetic. Now a static detector has been developed which sounds an immediate warning when any person or object with a dangerous static charge approaches the anesthetic equipment. It also dissipates any charge which may have been built up in the anesthetic machine, operating table or personnel. An antenna picks up any small voltage and tubes amplify it to produce a warning tone.

Smotherproof Pillow Protects Infants

Infants who turn over in their sleep and bury their faces in a safety pillow are in no danger of suffocation because they can breathe freely through the thin cotton cover. The pillow has no filling, being formed of a wire frame over which is stretched the open-weave fabric. Comfortable and hygienic, the smotherproof pillow is the invention of an Australian mother and is now being sold in that country.

Popular Mechanics provides two sources of further information concerning the articles published in each issue: the WHERE-TO-BUY-IT INDEX, starting on page 10, and the WHERE-TO-FIND-IT INDEX, which may be obtained without charge by writing Bureau of Information, 200 E. Ontario St., Chicago 11.
Replaceable Grille

Grilles on the 1950 Dodge cars are made of nine separate pieces that can be easily replaced. The grilles are designed to minimize the cost of front-end damage. The Dodge medallion, formerly on the hood, is mounted on the grille centerpiece.

Actinium Isolated In Quantities

Atomic research, industry, transportation and the fields of medicine and therapy will benefit from the isolation in commercial quantities of the last of the natural radioactive elements—actinium. Since the activity of this element is 150 times that of radium, it should be of help to nuclear physicists in the production of neutrons. Actinium emits strong rays which show promise in numerous applications, particularly in treating skin diseases. A large amount of “soft” radiation is present in actinium, but recent experiments have shown that radiation can be largely eliminated by a thin shield of glass or sheet plastic. Actinium has a half-life of 13.5 years.

Model-Airplane Engine Operates on CO2

Carbon dioxide powers a miniature engine which will pull model planes with wingspans ranging from 12 inches to 30 inches into the air. A standard capsule of CO2 supplies power enough for eight or more flights, ensures quick starting and provides low fuel cost. The engines are practically crashproof and make possible take-offs from both land and water.

Rubber Straps on Bike Carrier Bind Gear of Any Shape

Rubber straps bind articles of any shape to the carrier of a bicycle. The two straps terminate in metal plates which are fastened to the bike’s rear axle. Then the cyclist can slip clothing, books or lunch box under the straps and they are held securely in place. The higher the load is stacked the more pressure is exerted by the straps to hold it on the carrier.
UMBRELLA THEATER

Threatening skies won’t worry patrons of Pittsburgh’s proposed amphitheater. Like a modern convertible, it can put up its top at the first threat of rain.
Rain and outdoor concerts just don't mix! Even dyed-in-the-wool fans admit that. So, when Pittsburgh decided to build an outdoor theater for its summer series of light opera, the architects borrowed a page from the car-manufacturers' book and designed a convertible theater.

The circular theater, with a capacity of 9,000, will be roofless on clear nights, providing the thrill of performances under the stars. But should a rain-laden cloud show up, the manager touches a button and two electric motors "walk" around the perimeter track, unfolding a giant fabric umbrella. In 2 1/2 minutes, the audience and performers are snug under the big top.

Profile view shows shape of cantilever steel truss that supports the roof structure. From the center mast a network of cables keeps the fabric umbrella taut. Lighting and sound-control booth is suspended from short leg of the truss. The umbrella roof was invented by James A. Mitchell, Pittsburgh architect.
Five-Million-Volt Generator

A five-million-volt electrostatic generator at the California Institute of Technology is being used for new and precise measurements of atomic forces. One of the most powerful in the world, the generator is contained inside a pressure chamber that stands two stories tall. It delivers its beam of accelerated particles to a working area one floor below. The generator builds up its static charge similar to the way a person accumulates a charge while walking across a rug in dry weather. In the machine a comblike electrode spreads the energy onto an endless traveling belt that carries the energy to a dome inside the top of the pressure chamber. The energy then propels the particles under study through an evacuated tube to the working area.

Ball-Point Pen Refueling Kit

Ball-point pen owners can refill their pens with a kit that contains enough of the thick ink for six refills. The long applicator tube is inserted in the pen's ink cartridge. A plunger that is built into the ink container forces the ink down against the ball point. In this way, smooth, uninterrupted writing is made possible.

Spark-Plug Tester

Automobile spark plugs can be checked quickly in a new button-operated tester. A dial shows the sparking efficiency of the plug being tested. A convenient air valve and the switch button give the operator finger-tip control over the tester. The instrument can be bolted to a bench or in a convenient position on the wall.
THREE-HOUR PLAYHOUSE

JUST 180 minutes after you and a couple of friends start erecting the aluminum building shown below, you can have a complete summer cabin, back-yard playhouse or garage. The building, from its framing members to the Venetian-type window screens, is made of aluminum. The little house is 11 feet 8 inches wide and any length, starting with 13 feet 4 inches and adding units of 2½ feet. An overhead door is available if the building is to be used as a garage. The framing members are fastened to the foundation. Then the remaining parts are drive-cleated in place in the manner shown above. The accessory barbecue, upper right, grills steaks in a vertical position. It can be used to heat the house.
You may not know it—after all, you can’t see it—but you can hardly live without...

This Invisible Plastic, MELAMINE

If you’ve kept gooey strawberries in a paper bag that didn’t come apart, sliced an orange on a plastic tabletop without leaving a stain, or sponged ink from a pair of new overalls with plain water, then you’ve met a plastic that is one of the most interesting and versatile of our time.

Today you can hardly turn around without bumping into “melamine” in some form. It may be hidden in your white-leather shoes. It holds that strawberry bag together. It’s hiding in diapers, mosquito netting, evening gowns and paint. Cloth treated with it won’t wrinkle, and sheds water like a slate roof.

Melamine, combined with formaldehyde, is a synthetic resin belonging to the “thermoset” plastic family—which means that heat “sets” it, and once set it stays put. It is made of ordinary limestone, coke and nitrogen. Its odd characteristics are still being probed by chemists at American Cyanamid, where already it has provided a handful of surprises. For instance, it would not

Dishes and trays made of the wonder plastic won’t chip or scratch and their designs, buried in the material, won’t rub off or discolor. Below, workers spray an auto body with resin-treated enamel. Melamine mix has speeded up drying by 50 percent, produces a harder finish
Ice cubes are packed in a paper bag treated with the plastic. Right, water is drawn across two samples of paper. It has no effect on melamine-treated paper at left, but breaks and curls fibers of ordinary paper.

dissolve decently; was tough to melt. But, properly coax, it made a wonderful fast-drying, hard-surfaced enamel for metal. When a research chemist put it in house paint, however, the stuff peeled off.

Oops! No worries in cleaning this melamine-treated dress, though, for milk runs off water-repellent cloth.

In spite of its orneriness, Cyanamid chemists are vastly enthusiastic about its magic. What it did to paper was almost unbelievable.

It all started after Pearl Harbor when the government grabbed all the burlap, leaving farmers without any cheap material to surround a bushel of spuds. "Try paper bags," Washington suggested.

In hundreds of laboratories chemists hunted for something to make paper waterproof. Thousands of tricks were tried with other plastics. In Cyanamid's Connecticut labs, research chemists already had run some 2000 experiments with melamine. The stuff just wouldn't combine with the pulp fibers. Finally, one young chemist dropped a batch in hydrochloric acid. Next morning a blue haze hung in the acid. This blue haze was found to mean that melamine was charged with negative particles of electricity. Pulp, the chemist knew, had a positive charge.

Dry powdered melamine resin mixed with acid was poured in the pulp beaters of a New York paper company. What came out on the rollers is history. It looked and felt like ordinary paper. It soaked up water like ordinary paper. But soaking wet, it was as hard to tear as dry paper.

Still not convinced, the researchers ran tests. A hundred-pound "wet strength" paper sack was filled with flour and thrown...
By seeping into the wood fibers, melamine makes an adhesive more rugged than any ever applied to veneers over Niagara Falls. The pressure of falling water kept the sack churning for seven hours before it could be hauled in. The paper was soaked through but there wasn't a tear in it!

Sample war maps printed on melamine resin wet-strength paper were given to the Army to test in the field. A young lieutenant put the thing on the floor near a barracks doorway, where hundreds of GIs tramped on it all day long. He had it washed in soapy water and wrung out. He let tanks roll over it, dipped it in gasoline. He slopped some grease and paint over it.

Melamine plastic cups, virtually unbreakable, are removed from molds where they were formed under pressure.
Cups made of the plastic are so light that a waitress can balance a stack that reaches high in air
let it dry, and tried to take the paint off with paint remover. "It caused the map to dim out a little," he reported.

Today, melamine resin is used in soap-impregnated paper washcloths that don't disintegrate, outdoor advertising signs that won't peel in the rain and ice bags that stay in one piece wet or dry. You'll find it in paper towels that are just as absorbent but won't come apart while you are drying your hands.

Biggest trouble with melamine has been to make it do what it's supposed to do. The tiny, saltlike crystals were accidentally produced 100 years ago by a German scientist named Justus von Liebig. The stuff wouldn't dissolve in anything, and it required great heat to melt them. The old man put his crystals on the shelf, and there they sat until 1937.

It was during the war that a Cyanamid research chemist decided these very same stubborn characteristics might fill a crying need for a tough new plastic that would be fire-resistant, heat-resistant, water-resistant and acid-resistant—if only he could produce the crystals cheaply.

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Summer hat treated with the new resin formula sheds water like an umbrella, and the fibers won't fade
Steel cups shown on each pair of “grips” give the fisherman at right a foothold on slippery surfaces

**Waders With Teeth**

Fishermen can be sure-footed in moss, slime and slippery underwater growth, if they wear “grips” which attach to waders and boots. Steel heel and toe plates are pivoted to allow natural foot action and full bearing on broken surfaces. Eighteen steel cutting cups on the bottom of each pair of boots cut through slippery substances to give a solid grip.

**Instrument Records Flight Time of Homing Pigeon**

How much time does a homing pigeon spend in flight, and how long does he rest? Dr. D. H. Wilkinson of Cambridge University has developed an ingenious little instrument employing radioactivity to answer these questions. When the bird flies, its wings cut a stream of alpha particles strikes a photographic plate. When the bird is at rest, a steel ball falls into place, sealing off the plate from the radioactivity. Doctor Wilkinson examines the exposed film under a microscope, counting the number of tracks to learn the bird’s flight time. He also is working on a built-in compass to record direction and an absorption instrument to indicate time spent on water.

**Bicycle on Stilts**

When bus driver Albert R. Smith takes time off from his job, he again rolls along the streets of Washington, D.C.—but on a bicycle 12 feet 4 inches high. Smith's hobby is bicycling. The “hi-cycle” is chain-driven from a sprocket just below the seat. Smith’s vantage point gives him a view over the cars on the streets—and the busses, too.

Although often called “white ants” because of their resemblance to those insects, termites are not even related to the ant family—their most devastating enemy.

Information not listed on articles in the index frequently is given in the WHERE-TO-FIND-IT INDEX, available without charge from Bureau of Information, 200 E. Ontario Street, Chicago 11

MAY 1950
CARICATURES IN METAL

By Lee S. Edson

FROM A HOBBY of making toy animals out of old tin cans, Michael Chepouroff of San Francisco has developed a unique specialty. He creates humorous and lifelike metal replicas of any zoo inhabitant. His masterpieces are carved from single sheets of metal with the aid of hand tools.

Chepouroff calls himself an improviser in metal. Although he works from a carefully prepared pattern, he adds to the design as he goes along, utilizing every curl of the cut metal to develop the different parts of his subject. He never uses rivets, solder or welds.

The Russian-born artist-craftsman, who holds an art degree from the University of California, tried his hand at almost every kind of art, from oil painting to ornamental sculpture, before he decided on metal. Today, Chepouroff turns out animal figures ranging from two-inch bulldogs to two-foot pelicans. Every creature, he points out, is a distinct individual and the secret to a successful reproduction lies in developing a design that captures the animal's personality in the least number of lines. It took him 3½ years and 15 different creations to design a perfect tiger, but Chepouroff thinks it was worth it. And he still haunts the zoo to study an animal's movements and attitudes before he attempts a new design.

In starting a job Chepouroff sketches his subject in pencil on a sheet of paper. Then he cuts out the pattern and shapes it with cellulose tape. After selecting a sheet of metal of the appropriate size he transfers the pattern to it with pen and ink.

The cutting work is done in two stages. First he uses a pair of bulldog snips to block out the general outline of the pattern. This is followed by intricate cutting of the contours, for which he employs two pairs of aviation snips, one pair for the left hand and the other for the right. The snips curl the metal as they cut, leaving sweeps that can be improvised into eyes and ears. Making eyes is difficult — and important for good characterization. Some are round, others diamond-shaped, and some are merely bits of metal.

The artist can offer no rule to follow, except trial and error and a feeling for what is appropriate.
Artist applies finishing touches to heavy-jawed pelican made from a single plate of 12-gauge aluminum. Stainless-steel rooster perched on work stool was carved from single sheet of metal, using only hand tools.

Below, left, "metal improviser" Chepurkoff smooths out rough spot on an animal in his metal menagerie, while at right, a bearded billy goat surveys a placid elephant from a lofty perch on the wall of the shop.
Lilliputian Fire Department

Ready to move at the first clang of the alarm is a miniature fire department which includes 25 vehicles. The model fire trucks were carved by Tom Showers of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Showers whittled the apparatus from balsa wood and built a scale-model fire station to house part of the equipment. The vehicles depict various stages of American fire-fighting history from a model of an old horse-drawn hose wagon to a modern pumper. A model 100-foot aerial ladder extends high into the air above the rest of the equipment.

Projector Throws Image on Artist's Drawing Board

Photographs, art work, physical objects and color transparencies can be projected onto a drawing board in sharp detail by means of a new projector. Capable of enlarging or reducing copy from the size of a postage stamp or smaller, to a double-page newspaper spread, the image projector eliminates intermediate tracings, and makes possible finished art work directly from the image as it appears on the artist's drawing board. Operating controls are located under the drawing board or table.
"MIGHTY MOUSE"
—A BABY 'DOZER

CAPABLE of a smaller-scale version of the same tasks its giant counterparts perform is a midget bulldozer, called the "Mighty Mouse." It will do grading, excavating, backfilling, snow removal and similar work, with the added advantage of being able to operate in close quarters. It can push or pull with power equal to its weight—800 pounds—and carry loads as heavy as 500 pounds. A combination scoop and dozer blade, 36 inches wide and 14 inches deep, operates hydraulically and is dumped by means of a finger-tip trigger at the driver's left hand. Each track has a separate drive-and-brake lever and the vehicle turns on either one within an eight-foot circle. An air-cooled, five-horsepower gasoline engine provides forward and reverse speeds up to six miles an hour. When it has to be moved sizable distances, the bulldozer can be driven up detachable ramps into a "tote wagon" trailer, which can also be hooked onto the bulldozer as a load carrier. A built-in jack braces the wagon for loading and a floor canvas simplifies unloading.

Top, right, scooping out narrow trenches is one of the specialties of the "Mighty Mouse." It is only 38 inches wide. Middle, right, a large tread area and a low center of gravity afford good traction over snow, sand and soft ground. Right, the baby 'dozer can exert 800 pounds of thrust in grading work. Below, the entire unit can be driven onto "tote wagon" for long hauls.
Above, used oil arrives at re-refinery for cleaning. Right, taffylike sludge removed by first stage of re-refining

Below, the acid tank at the Worthington plant. Oil is mixed with acid to settle out sludge shown above

**NINE LIVES**

By Harland Manchester

IN THE SPRING of 1930 a lanky, irrepressible Hoosier named Walter Ray descended on Long Island City, N. Y., rented a factory site and hooked up an arrangement of tanks, pipes and valves that looked like a plumber’s nightmare. An oil-company man next door dropped in and asked him what he was up to.

“I’m going to raise goldfish,” he told him. Next, he bought a fleet of tank trucks and gave each driver a list of filling stations in the metropolitan area. At the stations, they pumped out the crankcase drainings from the concrete pits where these automotive leavings accumulate. The dirty oil was then considered refuse and station men were glad to have it hauled away.

In the “oil laundry” which he had built, Ray filtered, chemically scoured and re-refined the black gunk, producing a lubricating oil which he was willing to stack against any virgin oil on the market. But old oil which had been reconditioned for further use had a black eye and at first Ray
had to show customers that his product wouldn’t ruin their engines. Railroads, truck fleets and automobile sales agencies tried Ray’s oil and were convinced. They all said it was as good as new oil; some said it was better. More orders came in. Ray enlarged his plant, bought more trucks and soon he was shipping sump oil by highway, rail and water from filling stations all the way from Massachusetts to New Jersey.

This was not Walter Ray’s first venture in the field. Like many other oil and motor men, he had known for a long time that used lube oil, when properly reconditioned, was as good or better than new and that a lot of money could be made in salvaging it. He entered the business in Chicago in 1914 and later ran a successful plant in Toledo. When he entered the rich New York field with plenty of technical and business experience behind him, he really hit the jackpot. Today, he is one of the country’s biggest re-refiners, selling about 4,500,000 gallons a year.

His success inspired others. His brother, John, who started out with him, went to
Boston and set up his own re-refinery. A former employee set up shop in New Jersey. Since the war, lube-oil re-refining has mushroomed and today about 150 companies throughout the country, as well as 3000-odd transportation firms and manufacturers who do their own re-refining, are coining more millions out of petroleum’s long-neglected “garbage cans.” Last year an estimated 42,000,000 gallons of lubricating oil was produced from this source even though only a small fraction of the “raw material” was utilized. Every year about 500,000,000 gallons of sump oil are spread on dirt roads to lay the dust, hauled away to dumps, burned as low-cost fuel or poured down the drain. By correct re-refining methods, most oil can be brought back to original specifications or better.

Despite the old notion, still current among many motorists and even garage men, that oil “breaks down” or “wears out” in the engine and is unfit for further use, its permanent lubricating value has been well known to engineers and maintenance men since the first World War. When the famous Liberty airplane motor entered service in 1918, it required a lube oil of very high quality. The pilots, who were exacting about what went into their motors, soon found that a certain re-refined oil with a distinctive odor gave best results. This “burned” odor became so much a hallmark of excellence that several field commanders added it to other oils in order to persuade the fliers to use it. The pilots didn’t know it then, but they were demanding oil that had already gone through their engines. The burned odor, later eliminated, came from the reclaiming process then used by the Air Service. As a result of tests of the reclaimed oil made at 24 airfields, 12 commanding officers reported that their engineers and fliers could detect no difference between new and reclaimed oil, while the other 12 preferred the latter. Their tests showed lower oil consumption, cooler and cleaner engines and fewer breakdowns with reclaimed oil, even though some of it was “scrubbed” and reused as many as a dozen times.

This aviation oil was very superior, uniform stuff to begin with and airplanes don’t inhale the dust that automobiles do. Later tests, however, showed that you can take any mixture of dirty sump oil and by careful processing turn it into high-grade lubricating oil. The late William F. Parish, chairman of the Lubricating Engineering Committee of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, who was a pioneer in the use of reclaimed oil in aviation, tested it also in Delco units, diesel engines and automobiles and reported that it gave better service than new oil.

In Washington, used crankcase oil was being thrown into the Potomac, fouling up...
Right, drawing of filter press shows how the oil is forced through filter paper to remove carbon from oil by the filter press, being cleaned here.

boats and creating a fire menace. Winslow H. Hershel, Bureau of Standards physicist, investigated and stated what has since become a truism—that oil does not wear out, but only gets dirty and he showed how it could be restored to its original quality or better.

Since then many petroleum engineers, chemists and maintenance men have praised re-refined oil, both as a result of laboratory tests and actual operation of cars, busses and planes. Their explanation is simple: The first use in the motor breaks down some of the weaker hydrocarbon molecules and when the oil gets a second refining, those impurities are removed along with gasoline.

Fuller's earth, loaded with carbon, is filtered below, close-up of a chunk of the carbon-loaded fuller's earth that is left behind as oil passes through filters.

READY TO GO BACK TO WORK IN THE ENGINE OF YOUR CAR

4 HAVING BEEN COOLED, THE OIL IS FORCED THROUGH A FILTER PRESS TO REMOVE THE CARBON PARTICLES

5 SCIENTIFICALLY BLENDED TO MEET SPECIFICATIONS, THE CLEAN OIL THEN GOES INTO TANKS...
carbon, dust, water and other accumulations, yielding a more stable lubricant.

The better the quality of the original oil, the better the re-refined product. It cannot be said that all reprocessed oil, no matter how carefully treated, is equal to the best virgin oil. Walter Ray states that the average oil turned out by competent re-refiners is superior to about 80 percent of the virgin oil on the market.

One look at the black mess drawn from filling stations is enough to explain the popular belief that nothing good can come out of it. It contains carbon, dirt, sludge, acids and sometimes differential grease, solvents and occasionally even old nuts and bolts. Even so, it is cleaner than the petroleum from which virgin lube oil is made. There are many ways of partially cleaning it to produce a usable lube oil of sorts. Responsible operators once did a quick job of filtering and sold an inferior product which caused considerable engine trouble. Laws were passed in five states requiring that “reclaimed oil” be so labeled and motorists were justly suspicious of it.

Correct re-refining, which brings the oil back to its original specifications, involves many steps. It is filtered to remove solid particles, treated with alkalis to neutralize acids, washed with water, distilled at temperatures of 400 to 600 degrees Fahrenheit to remove diluents such as gasoline, treated to restore the original color and blended to the desired thickness or viscosity. A re-refining plant is actually a small refinery, repeating many of the steps performed in the production of the virgin oil, even adding the special chemicals which were put in the original oil to prevent fouling, corrosion and thickening in cold weather.

American Airlines has been re-refining its lube oil for 19 years and, during the war, set up its own re-refinery at La Guardia Field, cleansing for further use as much as 84,000 gallons a year. They use the laundered oil exactly as they do new oil and estimate that about 30 percent of the oil in their planes flying in and out of New York comes from their re-refinery.

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POPULAR MECHANICS
Protein "Factory"

Scientists are eagerly trying to make more efficient use of the sun's energy. Agriculture is notoriously inefficient since only $\frac{1}{99}$ of one percent of the sun's energy is converted into organic matter by photosynthesis. At the Stanford Research Institute, scientists are making progress in the search for ways to get more food from sunlight. Although still in the prepilot-plant stage, a complex protein "factory" has been developed that converts more than two percent of the solar radiation into organic matter, an improvement of 20 times over the agricultural average. By growing Chlorella, a common, single-celled alga, in a continuous system, the scientists are opening the way to mass production of organisms with a protein content of more than 50 percent. With a vast array of glass tubing, jars and light bulbs, these researchers may be providing the valuable know-how that will, in years to come, banish the threat of starvation for millions of the world's population.

Automatic Diabetes Test

Completely automatic, a machine for making clinical tests for diabetes is 10 times faster than medical technicians. Making up to 120 tests an hour, the machine quickly determines the presence of diabetes while the patient waits. A blood sample is placed in a tube and the tube is set in a hole on a disk. As the disk moves automatically, reagents needed to make the test drop into the tube at the proper intervals. When the tube completes its cycle, it is automatically removed into a storage rack—ready for reading by the technician or doctor.

Crickets and other noisy insects become silent when the temperature drops below 40 degrees.
Left, a dropped egg, photographed by pressure plate at the instant of impact. Right, another egg, a split second after impact. Split-second delays are set up by decreasing the weight resting on the microswitch.

how to make “QUICK FREEZE” camera shots

By Otha C. Spencer
Director of Photography
East Texas State College

CRASH! A bullet breaks through a sheet of plate glass. Your eye, slow as it is, sees only a blur of shattering glass. Even such comparatively slow action as the splattering of an egg as it falls to the floor is too fast for the eye to follow. All you see is the resulting mess!

But you can “quick freeze” action, capturing every detail of the movement in crisp, clear photographs. You can do it with a speed light. Once the darling of the laboratory experimenter, the speed light has become a valuable assistant to the amateur as well as professional photographer. (Instructions for making your own portable speed light were published on page 191 of Popular Mechanics, August 1948.)

However, the speed light alone can’t do the job. A triggering mechanism is needed to set off the light at the precise instant. To get these dramatic quick-freeze shots, the speed-light user can make a simple but effective device that will trigger the light and stop action at its peak. In high-speed photography, the eye and reflexes can’t work fast enough to click the shutter or set off the light at the peak of action.

Technicians and photographers who use the speed light professionally have various elaborate methods of capturing the exact instant of impact with their cameras. Among these is the electric eye, that takes the picture as the light beam is broken; the microphone that fires the speed light on the sound impulse of the impact; and various other methods using mechanical switches.

The method we are to discuss uses the microswitch. This is a sensitive switch that closes an electrical circuit at the slightest impulse. It is sometimes called an MU or precision switch and can be purchased at any radio-supply shop for $1.00 to $1.50. The switch is so sensitive that it takes only four ounces of pressure and a movement of .001 inch to close the contacts. When this switch is placed in the speed-light triggering circuit, the slightest pressure and movement will flash the light and expose the negative.

Action usually falls into two classifica-
Left, a milk carton bursts open for a 1/5000-second portrait. Like the eggs, this carton was dropped on the pressure plate. Right, a bullet, tearing through this bulb, leaves the top floating in space momentarily.

Directions for the photographer. Vertical action, which includes falling objects, and horizontal action, such as the flight of bullets.

One word here before we go further: Equipment that will stop a bullet in flight is not yet generally available to the amateur photographer. Most commercially available speed-light units have a flash speed of 1/1500 to 1/30,000 second and it takes speeds from 1/500,000 to 1/1,000,000 second to "freeze" a bullet in flight. But you can photograph the impact of the bullet, getting many unusual shots.

For vertical action, we use the pressure-plate method of triggering the flash. In other words, we let the pressure of the impact actuate the microswitch and take the picture. The switch is placed with the face upward. Over this is placed a piece of wood.

Above, the bullet passes through the trigger lever, forcing it against the microswitch and firing the speed light. Below, diagram of the layout used for the bulb photograph shown at the top of this page.
Left, falling-egg shots were made this way. By supporting most of the weight of the plate with a block, you can delay action briefly. Right, the pressure-plate trigger. Glass plate was used here so you can see switch or metal that is balanced so that it touches the pressure point but does not exert enough weight to close the contact. The slightest pressure will fire the light.

The camera room should be in semidarkness and the camera lens opened for a time exposure while the action is taking place. In this way, there is no problem of shutter synchronization. Because of the short light-to-subject distance, the lens can be stopped down to f: 22 or f: 32 and no image is recorded on the film except at the instant of the flash. As soon as the flash is over, the lens is closed manually.

Photographing the impact action of a bullet on an object is simple with speed light. The triggering arrangement is placed about 10 feet from the subject. The bullet passes through a thin wooden lever (the soft pine in apple boxes is just right) and the lever actuates the microswitch, flashing the light. Even though the speed light is an almost instant flash, there is enough delay so that the bullet has already passed through the subject and the shot is taken a split second after the impact.

Observing the ordinary precautions necessary while working with guns, any photographer with a speed light can make interesting pictures using this method of triggering. Avoid shooting into objects that might cause the bullet to ricochet. Also, the triggering lever should not be closer than three feet from the gun as it tends to deflect the bullet slightly when closer to the muzzle.

This lever arrangement is also used to photograph other horizontal motion. A black thread can be tied to the lever and stretched across the path of the motion. As the string is moved, pressure is applied to the lever and the switch contacts close. Other applications of these two basic methods of triggering will suggest themselves to the photographer and almost any type of action can be photographed. With the equipment that photographic technicians have made available, it is now no problem to make fast-action shots that once could be taken only in laboratories.

When you show your action shots to amazed friends, just smile mysteriously when they ask, “How did you know just when to click the shutter?”
Lensmen's Lift  
Photographers can shoot finish-line pictures from their own elevator now at Hialeah Park horse-racing track in Florida. The elevator lifts as high as seven feet to provide more effective photography angles. Appropriately, the horse selected for the first tryout of the new track-side elevator is named "Free Press."

Alpine Television Station Will Serve All Switzerland
From its antenna near the summit of the mighty Jungfrau, a 13,642-foot peak, an Alpine television station will broadcast programs to all Switzerland. Work on the new mountain-top station is being started and it is expected that broadcasting will begin in 1953. The world-famous funicular railway will carry the necessary equipment up the mountain, the station site being only a half mile from the rail terminus. The station will also serve as a radio-telephone link with the world communications network and as a standard radio-broadcasting relay station. It is believed that the effective range of the television station will also include a large portion of southern France and a section of northern Italy.

Mechanical "Gopher" Bores Channel To Retain Water
Boring through the ground at a depth of 30 inches, a mechanical "gopher" forms a loose channel that holds rainwater and prevents run-off and erosion. Built by two Washington farmers, the self-spinning borer follows a chisel through the earth, backfilling the absorbent channel as it turns. The farmers recommend that channels be cut in the fields every few years to provide maximum water absorption. Another implement built by the farmers is a large duckfoot for subsurface plowing.

Discarded Railroad Ties Turned Into Paper Sacks
Science, always seeking ways to turn waste material into something usable, has developed a method of making paper sacks and wrapping from discarded railroad ties. Inasmuch as the nation's railroads discard ties and poles amounting to three million tons of raw wood pulp a year, the process could provide one seventh of the country's pulp needs. The paper made thus far is somewhat weaker than that made from new wood, but further study may lead to a method of increasing its strength. Other substitutes which chemists are trying to salvage from waste include paper from grass, peach and almond flavoring from citrus rinds and stock feed from wood chips.

MAY 1950
Pin-up rod is driven against expansion wedge by an air hammer. Jacks are used only until installation is complete.

EXPANSION WEDGES

Above, two pin-up methods, showing expansion wedges. Below, foreground, the old system; beyond, pin-ups hold roof.

PIN-UPS for COAL MINES

FIRST TIME I ever knew you could lift yourself by your bootstraps” is how a coal miner described pin-up roof supports. And that is exactly what seems to be taking place. The long expansion bolts hold up the roof of the mine shaft by bolting the roof to itself!

That may sound more like the Indian rope trick than practical mechanics, but it’s not magic—it’s as practical as plywood. Several layers of slate and shale, each thin and weak, are bolted together to form a strong, solid roof.

Developed by the Bureau of Mines, the pin-up roof supports are steel rods an inch thick and six feet long. They are inserted in holes in the mine roof and driven against a steel wedge deep inside the hole. The wedge opens a slit in the end of the rod, just as a screwdriver opens a cotter pin, jamming the rod tightly against the side of the hole. A steel plate slips over the bottom end of the rod, which is threaded to take a nut. When the nut is tightened, the steel plate compresses the roof layers, forming a solid ceiling. By eliminating roof timbers, the pin-ups increase production because they provide unobstructed working space for mining and loading machines. Widespread use of pin-up supports will reduce roof-fall accidents, the number-one cause of death in coal mines.

POPULAR MECHANICS
Hollow Floor Tiles Provide Radiant Heating

Hollow tiles make the entire floor area of a house serve as a radiator in a radiant-heating system that uses forced warm air. Each tile block covers one square foot and through it run three warm-air channels. Uniform heating of the entire floor area provides a floor that is comfortably warm with temperatures not exceeding 90 degrees even in extreme cold weather. The tile provides 50 percent or more of its heat in the form of radiant energy and the rest by convection. After the warm air has circulated through the tiles, it is returned to the heating plant for reheating. If desired, the tile can be covered with carpeting or linoleum without any decrease in the efficiency of the heating system.

Berkeley Cyclotrons Do It Again—Another New Element

After four years of research, scientists at the University of California have created a new chemical element, No. 97, the heaviest thus far known. Produced by atomic-particle bombardment in the university's two cyclotrons, the new substance is called berkelium, in honor of the university city. Details of its properties and production were not announced, but it is believed to be short-lived and highly radioactive. The mass of the new element is probably as high as 247 or 248. It was discovered by Drs. Glenn T. Seaborg, Stanley G. Thompson and Albert Ghiorso of the university staff. Berkelium is the ninth chemical element discovered in the past twelve years, five of them being produced at Berkeley.
Haynes and his camera are photo historians of Yellowstone

YELLOWSTONE’S OTHER “OLD FAITHFUL”

This is the story of two famous photographers, father and son, who have been covering our oldest national park inch by inch for the last 69 years

By Rafe Gibbs

As the cigar-puffing man with granite-gray hair and blending mustache thrust his camera out his car window to take a picture, a tourist chided him:

“So Jack Haynes, the great photographer of Yellowstone Park, is a window picture snapper.”

Haynes drew silently on his big cigar for a moment, then replied:

“My derogatory friend, those are betting words. There are 3471 square miles in Yellowstone Park. More than two thirds of this area is nowhere near a road. But you name any Yellowstone mountain peak, any lake, any stream, any canyon, any kind of flower or tree or any animal and I will bet you a hundred dollars that I can produce a stock Haynes photo of it.”

The tourist walked away, mumbling an apology.

Asked about the bet later, Haynes smiled.

“That fellow could have won,” he said. “There are a couple of flowers in the park which I haven’t gotten around to photographing yet.”

Jack Haynes’ father, Frank Jay Haynes, began photo-

In 1883, a gun was part of the elder Haynes’ equipment on picture trips
As impressive as a painting, this Jack Haynes’ shot captured the power of the thundering herd at Yellowstone.

graphing Yellowstone in 1881, nine years after the land of the geysers was established as a park, and kept at it almost until his death in 1921. The son, who has spent every summer in the park since 1888, started taking pictures at 13. The best of the pictures by father and son now make up a priceless collection of 22,000 park scenes, providing the most complete pictorial history of any park in the world.

“Jack Haynes probably knows more about the history of the park than any living man,” says superintendent Edmund B. Rogers of Yellowstone. “He is Yellowstone Park history himself.”

Through his camera lens, Haynes has seen the park change from a rich-man’s rendezvous to a people’s playground. He has seen the annual number of visitors rise from 5000 to 1,015,000. He has viewed more

No candid model, this huge camera was pulled by a horse in 1887! Photographer Frank Jay Haynes is at right.
One of Haynes' best sellers is this shot of Mamma Bear and Baby Bear, as unconcerned as a pair of celebrities.

dramas of the wild than any movie fan who has attended every Tarzan picture.

Obtaining the park photography concession from the government in 1883, the House of Haynes built a 32-foot-square frame studio and residence on the old Army parade grounds at Mammoth. Today, there are 12 studios scattered throughout the park, employing during the tourist season more than 160 persons who annually sell 10,000,000 Haynes pictures. Haynes' wife, Isabel, manages the personnel; his 17-year-old daughter, Lida, trains the newcomers, and Haynes himself, now 65, acts as general supervisor—but at heart he is primarily just a photographer.

Countless millions of persons throughout the world have among their souvenirs Haynes photos of Yellowstone. Whether or not park visitors take their own pictures, they buy Haynes photos just in case and Haynes has become the king of park post-

President Arthur, center, and his party posed for a Haynes picture when touring Yellowstone Park in 1883.
card makers. His photo plant in Bozeman, Mont., complete with huge fireproof vaults for storing treasured negatives, forms one of the major industries of that town of 12,000.

Haynes' first camera was a simple five by seven plate job. When his father gave it to him on his 30th birthday in 1897, he said:

"Son, you take this and shoot yourself some wild animals. You'll find it's a lot more fun than shooting them with a gun."

The father scored a pictorial bull's-eye.

"Today it would be just as hard for me to shoot an animal with a gun as it would be to shoot a human being," declares Jack Haynes.

But more important than Haynes' feeling toward wildlife is the knowledge he has gained throughout the years of the best ways to photograph it.

Haynes always carries a press camera in his car, with the focus set at infinity, the shutter at 1/50 second and a film holder in place. When he sees a wildlife scene he wants, he quickly refocuses if necessary, pulls the slide and shoots.

Another Haynes technique: Don't slam the car door when you are getting out to take a picture of a wild animal.

"If you want to learn how to stalk wild animals, just follow an Indian around wooded areas for a day," advices Haynes.

With his press camera always loaded and ready to shoot, Jack Haynes never misses a chance to photograph wildlife in action.

"He moves as silently as a summer breeze."

Haynes has a word of warning, however, in silent stalking. Be sure that the animal has a good means of escape in an opposite direction from you. An animal should never be cornered. He'll probably come out fighting.

"If you mind your own business, the wild animal will usually do the same," says Haynes. "Of course, there are exceptions to this rule. Animals are just like people—

Skis carried Haynes and his camera over deep snow to photograph these elk, two of the 15,000 in Yellowstone.
Biggest of the park’s geysers, Excelsior, “posed” for Haynes in 1888. It’s been dormant for over 50 years now and this is its only picture there always seem to be some crazy ones.”

Haynes also has a tip for the photographer when shooting bears.

“Bear pictures are generally underexposed,” he says. “People forget that the bear is a pretty dark object and that woods form a dark background.”

Many other animals also need more exposure than they usually get. This is especially true of the moose.

“Photographers often complain that a moose has no character,” he explains, “but that’s because the picture needs more exposure to bring it out.”

Most photographed scene in Yellowstone is Old Faithful Geyser spouting 10,000 to 12,000 gallons of water into the sky. But often when the film is developed, the photographer is disappointed.

“Generally, amateurs photograph Old Faithful at too high a rate of speed,” Haynes says. “A fiftieth of a second is fast enough on any type of film.”

Haynes prefers to photograph the geyser slower than that and some of his views are masterpieces.

When patience is needed to get a picture, Haynes can out-sit an Indian. In 1922, a dormant geyser broke out along the road near Roaring Mountain. Haynes and two other photographers raced to get a picture, but when they arrived there was only a gurgle.

Hoping the geyser would perform again, the three photographers set up their cameras in ankle-deep mud. The wait became hours and, of the trio, only Haynes stuck by his camera. The other two were wandering around when, without warning, the geyser shot water more than 150 feet into the air. Haynes clicked his camera. The geyser has never given a full performance since and Haynes has the only picture of it in action.

He is a stickler for getting the exact effect wanted, having been known to take 90 shots of the same scene and throw away all except one. Once he climbed Bunsen Peak (altitude: 8600 feet) six times to get the right cloud formation. Another time, to

(Continued to page 236)
Pilot Model of Bevatron Gives Scientists "Practice"

Built to provide scientists with experience in the operation of the six-billion-volt bevatron, a quarter-size pilot model is now in operation at the University of California. No midget, although it is only a scale model of the giant now under construction, the pilot model accelerates protons to six million electron volts. The whole assembly, including an electromagnet that is divided into four sections, is 25 feet in diameter and has an accelerating chamber 100 feet long, the longest distance over which atomic projectiles have ever been fired. The full-size bevatron will be completed in about four years. It will have a magnet with a 110-foot diameter and an accelerating track 400 feet long, over which protons will travel 300,000 miles in less than two seconds. The magnet will weigh 10,000 tons, more than twice the weight of the magnet in the giant Berkeley cyclotron, presently the most powerful atom-smasher in the world.

Americans set fire to more than 34,500 tons of cardboard in the form of book matches each day, and burn 125,000,000 wooden matches in 24 hours—enough timber to build 25 six-room houses.

Driving at a speed of 40 miles an hour, a motorist facing the upper beam of a sealed-beam automobile headlight drives "blind" for a period of 12 seconds during which time his car is traveling 725 feet.
Generator Has Liquid Brushes

Jets of mercury are the brushes of a rotating-disk generator that develops a magnetic field 6000 times as intense as that of the earth. The generator has possibilities as the magnetic core of an atom-smasher. There is no iron in the magnetic circuit of the generator nor are there any wire windings in the coils. The rotor, a disk made of beryllium-copper because of its tool-steel strength, is driven by an air jet blowing against "buckets" around the top of the disk, which spins at 17,000 revolutions a minute. The coil "windings" are cast of solid copper. Because of the tremendous energy released by the whirling disk, ordinary copper or carbon brushes cannot be used. Instead, jets of liquid mercury serve as brushes creating dangerous vapors which are removed by a built-in exhaust system. The machine was developed by Robert I. Strough, physicist at Case Institute of Technology.

Quick-Change Motor Mount

Small electric motors are held securely in position yet are readily removable when they are attached to a mount that permits removal of the motor when it is swung to a vertical position. The mount can be used for either horizontal or vertical drive and it automatically compensates for belt wear. With it, you can make one motor serve several machines without undue loss of time in the transfer operation.

Army researchers have developed a 400-cycle generator that produces more current yet weighs less than 60-cycle models.
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New beauty and utility from old furniture. See page 166
Furniture transformation photos in this article by courtesy E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Inc.

It's almost unbelievable how quickly a little "surgery" on outdated furniture, discreetly done with a handsaw and a few other tools, can erase the earmarks of bygone days, and how well-chosen colors can add elegance and distinction. That's how simple it is to make old furniture live again. Such revitalized pieces can be decorated attractively with painted designs in "American folk art" following the simplified technique developed by Peter Hunt, noted artist and decorator of Provincetown, Mass.

Often, only a few slight alterations are necessary, as on the old buffet shown at the upper left. There's nothing difficult in making the simple changes required to modernize old furniture prior to repairing and enameling, and obtaining results such as

These two old pieces were combined to make the gay nursery chest pictured at the left. Legs of buffet were sawed off and the wardrobe unit bolted to top.
NEW LIFE FOR OLD FURNITURE

By E. R. Haan

Before-and-after views of the “nightmare” at the right show dramatically how the piece can be transformed into a Chinese-modern chest, using two colors. Note that the color photo is shown in a reversed position.

those shown on these pages. Usually, results exceed expectations. When examining an old piece, first decide on the necessary but minimum amount of surgery to give it a snappy, modern appearance. Sometimes a single object like the combination bookcase and the desk, page 169, will make two separate new items. Or, two odd pieces, like the old buffet and battered wardrobe shown on page 166, can be combined into a highly attractive storage unit for clothes, blankets and toys in a nursery or room for older children.

Repair hints: When making changes in furniture, avoid toolmarks from hammering or prying on surfaces that will be exposed. Therefore, make it a practice to use a thick, folded paper pad, or a flat piece of thin wood under the hammer or other tool to protect the surface. Tighten loose screws.

Headboards of discarded beds make unusual backs for benches. Endpieces, a seat and apron must be added. Two-color treatment emphasizes carved overlays.
Old ornate picture frames offer many possibilities. The dainty shadow box for miniatures, left, and the recessed plant shelf, above, are two suggestions. The coffee table, below left, serving trays and kitchen bulletin boards are other practical possibilities and bolts that hold parts together, such as table legs. If screws are missing, replace them and, if the screw holes are enlarged so that the screws cannot be drawn tight, replace the screws with others that are slightly larger. Sometimes you can reduce the size of a hole by driving in a piece of a wooden matchstick dipped in glue. Or, it may be necessary to drill or ream out a screw hole to permit the insertion of a dowel dipped in glue.

Drive down protruding nails or brads with a nail set. If they are very loose, substitute others of slightly larger size. Often the mortise-and-tenon joints of old furniture are loose and require regluing with waterproof glue to make them strong again. When this is necessary, scrape away the old glue before applying the new. Frequently it is easier and better to substitute new dowels for old ones that are loose and can be pulled out readily. It may be necessary to ream out the dowel holes slightly for new, larger dowels. In other cases where joints are loose and wobbly, metal braces are sometimes useful to obtain rigidity if they can be applied to the piece.

"Frosting" a frame is done by first applying flat light-blue paint, left-hand photo. When dry, flat white is applied over carved portions, right-hand photo. While paint is still wet, it is rubbed off high spots lightly with a soft cloth, center photo.
where they will not be noticeable.

**Clean thoroughly**: Next, inspect the condition of the old finish. Frequently old varnish or enamel finishes are not excessively scratched, marred or cracked, and in such cases the new finish can be applied over the old. However, a thorough cleaning is necessary to eliminate all dirt, oil, grease, furniture polish and wax. Most of this, except wax, can be removed readily with a solution of cleaning powder applied with a sponge or rag. Wax can be removed effectively with a turpentine-saturated rag, after which the surface is washed with the cleaning solution. Be sure to scrape accumulations of dirt out of corners. After cleaning, the varnished surface is roughened with 2/0 sandpaper. This will provide a better surface than hard, glossy varnish, for the adherence of the undercoat. Some furniture refinishers use a varnish softener, which combines with the varnish and provides a good base to which the undercoat will adhere. One of the advantages claimed for varnish softener is that it minimizes the trouble of enamel chipping off varnished surfaces. In some cases, particularly when the old finish is mahogany, and the surface is marred and scratched, it is advisable to seal the stain under the old finish as it is likely to bleed through where the varnish has been removed. For this purpose you can get a prepared stain sealer. This also is used if the old finish is a varnish stain.

**Varnish removal and crack filling**: Badly checked, marred and
Many outdated radio cabinets require very little surgery to convert them to storage chests for toys and blankets. Photo, center, left, shows lamp bases made from table legs.

Scaling varnish and enamel finishes should be removed entirely for best results in refinishing. Use a liquid varnish remover, following the directions carefully. Be sure to wash the surfaces thoroughly with turpentine or mineral spirits after the old finish has been removed. Next, fill deep gouges, cracks and holes in the wood with a nonshrinking crack filler or wood putty. When dry, sand the spots flush with adjacent surfaces. If the wood was stained, especially if the stain was mahogany, much of the stain has been absorbed in the wood and cannot be eliminated with varnish remover. Therefore, to prevent this stain from bleeding through subsequent coatings, be sure to apply a coat of sealer.

**Enamel undercoat:** After the surfaces have been reconditioned and are smooth and clean, apply enamel undercoat. This provides a flat coat to which a fairly heavy coat of enamel will cling without

Lew coffee table for a sunroom, porch or patio was formerly a round dining table. Note how the original feet were used again by sawing them off and mounting vertically.
Method of Coiling Garden Hose Eliminates Twisting

If you keep a garden hose coiled when not in use rather than winding it on a reel, you will appreciate this method of coiling which keeps the hose from twisting as it is pulled from the coil. Form the hose coils as shown in the detail, laying them one on top of the other. Note that each succeeding loop is made in the direction opposite that of the previous loop.

Frank Nelson, Auckland, N.Z.

Feather Forms Substitute Brush For Drawing Fine Lines

An emergency brush for inking a fine-line drawing can be improvised from a chicken feather. Select a feather which tapers to a sharp point, dip the point in ink and use like an ordinary brush.

Cellulose Tape Seals Screen Holes

Small holes in window screens can be patched temporarily with strips of cellulose tape. Cover both sides of the hole with the tape and then press the adhesive surfaces of the tape together. As the tape is transparent, it will not be too noticeable.
**Removable Hopper for Seeder Converts It to Yard Cart**

By using a large removable hopper, I now can convert my seed and fertilizer spreader to a yard cart whenever it is needed. The hopper is of plywood reinforced with cleats at the joints, and fits snugly into the spreader hopper. The bottom of the wooden hopper is made flat so that when mounted on the spreader it is high enough to clear the agitator. Rope handles attached to the sides of the hopper facilitate carrying it to and from the cart.


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**Wooden Handle Drives Screw Eyes**

If you have a number of screw eyes to drive, the job can be done quickly with a handle made from a section of broomstick or dowel. Cut off a length sufficient to provide a good handgrip and cut a slot in one end wide enough to receive the head of the screw eye. The latter should be a fairly snug fit in the slot so that the handle will not slip off readily when turning the screw eye.—Roger Isetts, Kenosha, Wis.

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**Charcoal Keeps Game Fresh**

Even though the weather is warm, you won't have to worry about game birds and small animals spoiling before you get home if they have been treated with charcoal. Dress the game, wash the inner cavity and wipe dry. Then take charcoal from the stove or campfire and solidly pack the inner cavity with it. Wrap each bird or animal separately in several thicknesses of paper and store in the coolest place available. Treated in this way, the game will stay fresh for several days in the warmest weather.—R. A. Jenkins, St. Louis, Mo.

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**Dolls Stored in Plastic Hatbox**

Hobbyists who collect miniature dolls will find that a large plastic hatbox forms an excellent container that will easily hold eight or more of them. The transparent plastic allows the dolls to be displayed attractively while still protecting them from dust.—H. Leeper, Canton, Ohio.

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(To clean stucco walls, use a solution of muriatic acid, 1 part, and water, 7 parts. Apply the solution with a scrubbing brush.)
REMINISCENT of the old buildings found in western ghost towns, this unusual bird feeder forms a novel decoration for the yard in addition to providing an all-weather shelter for a number of birds. The feeder is set on top of a post at least 8 ft. above the ground with the open end at the front of the shelter facing south to afford maximum protection from the elements. The bottom of the platform can be a piece of 1 x 12 and wooden strips are nailed to its edges so that the platform doubles as a feeder tray. The shelter is cut out and assembled with glue and brads as shown in the detail. However, before assembly, the outer surfaces of the front, back and sides and the front portion of the floor are scored with shallow saw cuts to simulate wide boards. The window casing, sign frame and roof shingles are cut from veneer which has been soaked and separated from a piece of plywood. The veneer is glued in place, small brads being used in addition to the glue to insure that the veneer will not come loose. After the shingles have been applied, a ridge roll, also cut from veneer, is fastened along the peak of the roof in the same way as the shingles. Both the shelter and the platform are finished with a coat of reddish-brown oil paint to give an antiquated appearance and, after this has dried, the sign is lettered with black paint. A small screen-wire basket for suet should be tacked to one of the walls inside the shelter. Use a piece of 4 x 4 for a post.
HAND PUPPETS EASY TO MAKE

By Ed Lundburg
Photos by Jasper Nutter

REVIVED by their popularity on television, hand puppets are fast becoming the rage among the youngsters of the country. Not only are the puppets entertaining but they give the child an opportunity to combine his artistic talents with craftsmanship. Unlike the more elaborate marionettes with their movable joints and involved string arrangements, these puppets are easy to make and the presentation of a show requires little more than a stage front with a curtain backdrop behind which the operator can stand.

Although the actual fashioning of the puppets is surprisingly simple, there is no limit to the variety of characters that can be created with the aid of a little imagination. The puppets consist basically of a head and two hands which are joined together with an appropriate costume. The head, modeled over a hollow core, is placed on the index finger and the arms are mounted on the tips of the thumb and little finger of the operator's hand.

The center of attention and, therefore, the most important part of the puppet is the head. A mache type of material, which must be specially prepared, is used to model the head, the primary ingredient of the substance being wood dust. Note that this is not ordinary sawdust but the fine dust collected from a sanding machine. Each puppet head requires about a heaping cupful of the wood dust. This is thoroughly mixed with a flour-and-water paste by adding the dust to the paste and working it in until the mass is of sufficient consistency to permit modeling with the hands. It is recommended to use hot water for mixing the paste, primarily because it is more comfortable to work the warm mixture by hand.

As soon as the modeling material attains the desired consistency, the mass is applied around a paper core and shaped to the features of the puppet.

To make the core, cut a piece of heavy wrapping paper into a strip approximately 2 in. wide and 18 in. long. Wrap the paper loosely around your index finger to form a cylinder and then fasten it with a strip of cellulose tape or gummed paper. Leave the cylinder on your finger, crumple half of a paper towel and then tie it around the upper portion of the cylinder with a piece
of string, as in Fig. 1. Follow by applying the mache over the towel, as shown in Fig. 2, modeling the features of the head as in Fig. 3. The reason for placing the crumpled paper towel around the upper half of the core is to provide a rough surface which the mache will grip securely when it hardens. Thus, it will not slip off the core. Note that in modeling the head, a collar of mache is formed around the lower portion of the core. It is necessary that this be done, as the collar allows the puppet’s costume to be fastened with a drawstring, as in Fig. 7.

After modeling the head, set it aside to dry for about two days and, when it has hardened, sand the contours smooth with fine abrasive as pictured in Fig. 4. As the mache has a high wood content, you will find it easy to sand. Painting the head is the next step and, when doing this, keep in mind that the audience must be able to see the features from a considerable distance. For this reason, use bold lines and colors, Fig. 6, making up the puppets just as carefully as circus clowns. A standard doll wig, or a homemade one of fur or carpeting is glued to the head. However, if a rather large hat is part of the costume, hair can

Puppet and puppeteer ready for the next performance

Crumpled paper towel tied around end of cylinder provides form over which puppet’s head is modeled

Head is fashioned from a specially prepared mache type of material, utilizing a cupful of fine wood dust

Collar molded at base of the head permits attaching costume simply by tightening drawstring at the neck

After the mache has dried for two days, the features are carefully sanded with a very fine abrasive paper
be simulated by painting over the mache.

The arms of the puppet are made of wrapping paper in the same way as the core of the head. Wooden ice-cream spoons taped or glued to the cylinders, as in Fig 8, form the hands. These can be notched to simulate fingers or left plain and painted to suit. Suitable costumes for the characters can be cut and sewed together from cloth remnants, using gay or subdued colors to conform with the personality of the puppet being created. As mentioned before, the neck of the garment as well as the arms are secured with drawstrings. Note in Fig. 5 how the long costume of the puppet hides the operator’s hands and arms.

Acetone Does Thorough Job of Cleaning Varnish Remover From Surface

Next to doing the work in a well ventilated room, the most important step in using varnish remover is to make sure that all traces of the remover are wiped from the surface of the work. I have found that acetone applied with steel wool is excellent for scrubbing the surface clean after the varnish is softened. First, I use a scraper to remove most of the soft varnish. Then, after applying a second coat of remover, I scrub the surface with steel wool dipped in acetone and follow by rubbing with a cloth dipped in the same solution. A final wiping with acetone and a clean cloth produces a thoroughly cleaned surface.

Herman F. Buegel, Grand Forks, N. D.
PORTABLE BOX DISPENSES ADMISSION TICKETS

Next time you’re on the entertainment committee for a church or lodge social function, you can simplify the job of selling admission and raffle tickets by taking a couple of hours to make this portable ticket box. Two rolls of tickets can be inserted quickly in the box by lifting out the reel and placing the rolls over the ends of the shaft. The first couple of tickets on the rolls are threaded through slots cut in one end of the box. Note in constructing the box that, after the sides and ends have been assembled, a supporting member notched for the reel shaft is nailed to the inner surface of each side. The shaft should be positioned at the center of the box and parallel with the ends. The top of the box is fitted with a hinged cover, rabbed on all four edges to close snugly, and the ticket reel is assembled by gluing two plywood disks and a wooden spacer on a length of 5/8-in. dowel. The spacer must be thick enough to align the tickets with the slots in the end of the box. A carrying handle screwed to the cover and a hasp for a padlock complete construction. The finished box is painted to suit.

D. C. Marshall, Manhattan, Kans.

Compact Bottle Warmer for Picnics Made From Fruit-Juice Cans

Tucked away in a corner of the trunk or in the back seat of the car, this little picnic stove is easy to carry and provides a quick method for heating baby’s formula, boiling water for coffee and warming canned foods. The stove is made from two fruit-juice cans, one of them having a diameter slightly smaller than the other. Cut the top from the larger can and, using a lever-type can opener, make ventholes around the bottom. Then perforate the sides two or three inches above the vents, bending the metal inward to form a rack for a grid. The grid is made by cutting one end, including the rim, from the smaller can with tin snips, the rim providing a reinforced edge for the grid. Perforate the metal, as shown in the upper detail, bending the tabs around the edge with a pair of pliers. To use the stove, drop a heat tablet into the bottom and lower the grid down over the rack. Ignite the heat tablet with a match inserted through one of the ventholes. As no smoke and very little odor is emitted by these tablets, canned goods may be opened and heated directly over the flame. However, a baby’s bottle should be heated in a can containing water.

Philip D. Miller, San Lorenzo, Calif.

Checking Refrigerator Light Switch

What happens to the refrigerator light when you close the door? Sometimes it stays on, reducing the efficiency of the refrigerator. If the lamp feels warm right after the door is opened, it has been burning owing to a defective switch which should be replaced as soon as possible.
Solving HOME PROBLEMS

WHEN TATTING OR CROCHETING, stick a hatpin into the arm of the chair and slip the spool of thread over the pin. This will keep the spool from falling to the floor and rolling out of reach.

MOTH-BALL CONTAINERS for the closet can be fashioned from adhesive-bandage cans. A number of holes are punched in both sides of each can and hung from a clothes pole or hook with string.

A TEMPORARY SHIRT RACK bent from a wire coat hanger is just the thing to hold freshly ironed shirts until they can be put away. Bend the hanger as shown and hook it over top of door.

AN EASY-TO-USE WASH-LINE REEL that will not twist the line is made in a jiffy from scrap lumber. The reel rotates around a center handle on which it is held with washers and cotter pins.

DOILIES, TABLE RUNNERS and dresser scarves will not blow out of place in a sudden draft if they are weighted with metal washers. Pockets for weights are sewed to the underside at corners.
Instead of using up valuable space in sewing kits and baskets for storing large spools of thread and balls of mending cotton, just insert the thread in an empty egg carton and place in a dresser drawer.

To remove a cork from the inside of a bottle that you wish to use again, pour a little ammonia in the bottle and allow it to remain for several days. The ammonia will crumble the cork for easy removal.

If the rubber hose on a bathtub shower spray tends to split at the connection, cut off the damaged portion and wrap the end with waterproof cloth tape. This will reinforce the hose to prevent splitting.

Fitting wallboard around outlet boxes is easy to do if the box itself is used to mark the board. Rub chalk over the edge of the box and place the panel in position, pressing it firmly against the outlet box.

A spring-type trouser hanger clamped to a paper bag forms a handy disposal container which can be hung conveniently from a doorknob. It's excellent for collecting cigarette butts, etc., after a party.

Spoilage of left-over food is reduced by labeling each dish with the date it was placed in the refrigerator. Write the date on a slip of paper and fasten to the side of the dish with cellulose tape.

Stains on furniture, rugs and clothing are easier to clean if they have not dried. To speed removal make a chart listing various types of stains and how to remove them, and tape it to a closet wall.

Rubbing light oil over the outside of ice-cube trays and the inside of the refrigerator freezing compartment permits removing the trays without difficulty. Clean and dry the surfaces before applying the oil.

Next time you break the stem of one of your favorite plants, bind the sections together with cellulose tape. If done in time, the break will heal, restoring the plant to its original healthy condition.

Carved decorations on furniture which are difficult to dust in the usual way can be cleaned thoroughly by using a soft-bristled brush dipped occasionally in a shallow container filled with liquid furniture wax.
Portable Stove Cooks Picnic Lunch

Made in a few minutes from a large can of the type in which potato chips and lard are sold, this portable cookstove is just the thing for preparing a warm picnic lunch. The cover is discarded and holes are punched near the top of the can to receive iron rods which provide a grill. A large opening cut near the bottom of the can permits refueling and allows sufficient draft.

Leroy P. Murphy, Spring Hope, N. C.

Hardwood, as shown in the detail, and fitted with a cover of sheet aluminum. The cover is attached with lengths of piano hinge, one sleeve of each hinge being cut away and a spring inserted to hold the lid closed. The hinges can be riveted to the cover or simply attached with nuts and bolts. The fishhooks are mounted between two wooden blocks nailed to the bottom of the box. Cork is glued to the top of one of the blocks to engage the barbs of the hooks, and brads driven into the other block hold the looped ends of the leaders. The section between the blocks provides space for sinkers and miscellaneous tackle.

R. J. DeCristoforo, New York City.

Furniture Webbing Drawn Taut With Locking Pliers

Drawing furniture webbing taut before tacking it in place is a simple matter if a pair of locking pliers is used as a lever to pull the material across the frame. Just clamp the webbing between the jaws of the pliers and press the rounded nose of the tool against the frame while pushing downward on the handle. The webbing can be held taut with the pliers while it is tacked in place. Then cut off about 1 in. beyond the edge of the frame, fold back and retack. Place a wooden block under the pliers so that they do not mar the varnished surface of the frame.

Oliver C. Grant, Springfield, Mass.

Handy Container for Fishhooks

Easy to handle, this wooden container holds a number of fishhooks for convenient selection and prevents the leaders from becoming tangled. The box is made from.

Cleaning White-Bead Jewelry

When necklaces and bracelets made of white beads become soiled, their whiteness and luster can be restored by immersing them in a lukewarm soap-and-water solution. The beads should be left in the soapy water for a few minutes and then rinsed carefully, with clear water to remove all traces of soap. After this, they are hung up until thoroughly dry.

Helen Lemberger, Chicago.
BAR-B-Q
CHUCK WAGON

By Elma Waltner

THIS CHUCK WAGON with its large trays takes care of the transportation problem for both the host and hostess at a garden barbecue. Usually one trip with the wagon from kitchen to outdoor fireplace does the whole job of delivering the necessary dishes, utensils and food. This one is pushed wheelbarrow-fashion and has been specially designed for easy construction. Note in Fig. 3, for example, that at the front end of the framework the two horizontal members of the frame, which also form the ends of the trays, overlap the lengthwise members and enclose the uprights. At the rear of the frame, the two corresponding pieces are placed ahead of the uprights and are butted against the sides of the lengthwise members. This arrangement of parts makes it easy to join the frame with screws and glue without the necessity of cutting mortises or half laps. Assembly of the parts is clearly shown in Fig. 3. Shape handles by rasping away the wood and finishing with sandpaper. The

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bottoms of the trays are of plywood or hardboard and the corners must be carefully notched to fit around the uprights. Before installing the tray bottoms permanently, they are decorated with the character decorations suggested in Figs. 1 and 2. This can be done by transferring the full-size outlines to the wood with carbon paper and then burning in the outlines or by painting with suitable enamel colors. After completing the trays and framework, all parts are finished with a coat of orange shellac and one of spar varnish. To carry out the chuck-wagon motif a step further, make the wheels as in Fig. 3. Saw two ¾ x 10-in. disks and center-drill them for ½-in. brass or bronze bushings as indicated. After driving the bushings in place, make shallow saw cuts on the outside face of each disk as shown. Then fit two cleats at the angle shown and fasten in place with screws. Drill the front frame uprights for a ½-in. shaft, and then assemble the wheels on the shaft with washers and cotter pins. Finish the wheels to match the frame. Although pine is a satisfactory wood to use, oak is best for both the frame and wheels, as it is much more durable.

Lamb’s-Wool Paint Roller Spun on Portable Drill for Quick Cleaning

If you want to clean a lamb’s-wool paint roller in a few minutes so that it can be used to apply another color of paint without delay, whirl it on a rod which is chucked in a portable electric drill. Use a length of rod that is about 2 in. longer than the paint roller and one that will slip through the center hole of the roller. Wind one end of the rod with rubber tape and, holding the taped end, push the rod through the hole in the roller. Press the tape shim snugly into the end of the hole and chuck the other end of the rod in the drill. Then insert the roller into a can or box which is slightly deeper than the length of the roller and turn on the drill for a few seconds. Stop the drill, sprinkle the roller with turpentine and replace inside the can, again turning on the drill. Repeat this operation two or three times or until the roller is thoroughly clean, and it will be ready for applying the new paint.

Carter Robertson, Franklin Park, Ill.
Cork Fishing Floats Mounted on Croquet Wickets Increase Visibility

To make croquet wickets more clearly visible when the game is being played at dusk, press a cork fishing float over each wicket, positioning it directly at the top of the arc. The holes in most floats are small enough so that they will be a friction fit on the wire and will not readily slip out of place. Paint the corks white or bright yellow before slipping them over the wickets.

G. E. Hendrickson, Argyle, Wis.

Paste Brush Hung From Pail Rim
By Knob Fastened to Side

In order to keep a paste brush right with the pail where it is always convenient, one paper hanger suspends the brush inside the pail by hanging it from the rim. A brush hanger was improvised by cutting a wooden thread spool in half and fastening one of the halves to the side of the brush handle with a screw. The lip of the spool keeps the brush from slipping off the rim of the pail and falling into the paste solution.

Novel Gate Utilizes Scrap Parts

Here's an excellent example of the interesting ornamental gates that can be made from odds and ends. This particular gate utilizes a section of iron railing, a length of spiral reinforcing rod, wire fenders from a two-horse cultivator and a horseshoe. All the parts are welded together.

A. M. Wettach, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

Emergency Matches for Campers

A number of dry matches kept in readiness for emergency use on a camping trip, will come in handy if the regular supply of matches is ruined by rain or dampness. To protect the emergency matches from moisture, sandwich each one between two strips of cellulose tape, pressing the edges of the tape tightly together.

Toothpick Prevents Spilling Fluid When Filling Cigarette Lighter

Attempting to fill a cigarette lighter from an open-mouthed bottle often results in spilling a considerable amount of the fluid on the floor or table top. To prevent this waste of fluid, hold a toothpick across the mouth of the bottle and place the end in the lighter opening, as shown in the drawing. Pour the fluid slowly so that it will flow along the toothpick and into the lighter.

Victor H. Lamoy, Upper Jay, N. Y.
Repainting INTERIOR WALLS and WOODWORK

It's easy for any homeowner to do good interior painting by following the simple but important steps of correct procedure in both preparatory work and painting.

Kinds of paint: Paint selection for interior work depends largely on the effect desired—on whether you want a gloss, semigloss or flat finish. Today most oil paints and enamels for interior use are relatively fast drying. Gloss finishes, often used in kitchens and bathrooms, dry to a hard finish, shed dust and wash easily. Semigloss or eggshell finishes produce less glare and, therefore, are preferred generally for living, dining and bedrooms. The latest type of semigloss enamels have excellent wearability and are easy to apply. Flat paints eliminate glare almost completely but soil easily and show fingerprints. As they set within a few minutes, they are somewhat difficult for the average layman to apply.

Water-soluble paints come in powder or paste form. They include calcimine and casein as well as the more complex resin-emulsion paints. Most water-soluble paints have excellent hiding power and cover in one coat, although many oil paints of similar consistency will cover equally well. It is possible to clean water-soluble paints fairly well by rubbing lightly with a sponge, clean rag or soft brush moistened with soapy water. The resin-emulsion paints will withstand ordinary cleaning. Calcimine cannot be washed to clean it but must be removed entirely and replaced. Repainting over some types of water-soluble paints with oil paints is possible if a special sealer is first applied. However, in the case of casein paints, the best practice is to remove the old coat with the aid of paint remover. This is neutralized with turpentine which is allowed to dry before oil paint is applied.

Plastic texture paints, available in either water-soluble or oil-base types, are used to improve the appearance of old walls which are in such poor condition that the surface defects and irregularities cannot be concealed by ordinary paints. This type of paint produces rough-textured finishes.

The characteristics of any particular brand of paint and the amount required for
How to get professional results and make big savings by doing the work yourself. Includes important preparatory steps and many little tricks of painting.

A job should be taken up with the paint dealer. A one-coat repaint job is often sufficient to cover a previously painted wall of the same or nearly the same color. Two coats generally are required if there is a change in color. When applying two coats, the first should be allowed to dry for 12 to 18 hours before the second is applied.

Often enamel undercoater is applied to a surface prior to enameling it. The purpose is to produce the best possible bond between the two, thereby lessening the tendency of the enamel to chip and also providing a base on which a substantial amount of enamel can be applied with minimum trouble from runs and sags.

**Tools and equipment:** Fig. 1 shows what you need. For fast, uniform coverage of large surfaces, use a 4-in. brush; the 2-in. size is handy for sash and door work. Excellent results on walls and ceilings are possible with a paint roller, supplementing this with a brush to cut in the paint neatly at the woodwork and in corners and to reach into small spaces. For calcimining, use a calcimine brush to get quick, uniform coverage. You can work from a single stepladder, but two 4 or 5-ft. stepladders (or two wooden boxes of the right height) and an extension plank are much more convenient. A drop cloth protects floors and built-in furniture from paint drops, but newspapers can be used. You also need a putty knife, sponge, some 1/0 sandpaper and No. 0 steel wool, a trisodium-phosphate cleaning powder, a box of patching plaster, and either the non-shrinking, plaster-of-paris type of crack filler, or the type that remains somewhat flexible for use where there is movement and vibration of adjoining surfaces. Also get a gallon of turpentine, a bottle of shellac and a small brush. Don't forget a cheap pair of canvas gloves to prevent painful blisters if you're not accustomed to handling brushes, and rubber gloves for protection against strong cleaning solutions.

**Preparations for painting:** Expert results in painting depend largely on the thoroughness of preparatory work, especially cleaning, crack filling and sealing. Remove all loose furniture, drapes, curtains, Venetian blinds, pictures and other fixtures nailed.
Reposition the base shoe molds at the floor level if there are wide gaps as shown in details at right.

A thorough washing with cleaning solution assures surfaces that are entirely free from dirt and grease.

or screwed to the walls, and extract nails and screws. Loosen the canopies of lighting fixtures and remove plates from wall switches and outlets, Figs. 2 and 3. For a professional appearing job, remove hardware from doors, windows and cabinets, Fig. 4. Chromium hardware can be immersed in a strong solution of cleaning powder until ready to replace it, at which time it is rinsed and dried. Lacquer-coated brass hardware is not subjected to this cleaning treatment. Kitchen-cabinet doors can be taken to the basement for painting. To get behind the kitchen stove when cleaning and painting, turn off the gas supply at the meter, disconnect the stove and move it. Put a cap on the end of the gas pipe.

Repositioning the shoe mold: Owing to shrinkage of wood and settling of a house, gaps often develop between the shoe mold and floor or baseboard, details A and B of Fig. 6. To correct this, pry off the shoe mold carefully with a wide chisel. If it breaks, replacement is not expensive. Scrape away dirt stuck to the floor or baseboard and replace the shoe at floor level, Fig. 5. Then sandpaper down the rough edge of paint where the mold joined the baseboard.

Thorough cleaning procedure: Paint should never be applied to a dirty or greasy surface, nor to one covered with wax. Dirt and grease are washed off with a strong solution of cleaning powder. This also dulls glossy surfaces and puts them in better condition for paint adhesion. Wax is removed with a turpentine-saturated cloth followed by a thorough washing with cleaning solution. When washing a room, do the ceiling first, as in painting. Use a sponge, Fig. 7, on smooth walls; a soft brush is better for rough surfaces. Wring out surplus solution from the sponge to prevent dripping, apply to the surface and let the chemical work. Then rub the surface and wipe up with a sponge wrung out in clean water. Such a washing also removes starch coatings and calcimine. Besides the wall surfaces, all the woodwork is washed thoroughly, scraping away dirt from baseboard corners and the tops of door frames with a putty knife.

Crack filling: Cracks, scratches, gouges, as well as nail and screw holes that will not be used again, are closed with a crack filler. The kind that remains slightly flexible is used where there is any vibration, expansion or contraction, which would loosen a hard crack filler. Very small cracks can be filled with "spackling" compound. Cracks ¼ in. wide or more, are undercut to inverted V-shape with a putty knife as in detail A of Fig. 6. As the plaster on each edge of large cracks often is raised, dress the raised portions down flush with the rest of the plaster surface, using sandpaper as in detail B. Edges of a crack are wet with water before applying plaster-of-paris type crack fillers or patching plaster. Cracks larger than ¼ in., as well as spots from which loose plaster has been removed, are filled with patching plaster. Smoothing platter
on large patches is done with a trowel. As there may be shrinkage in patching plaster, a second application is sometimes necessary. When using crack filler which sets quickly, mix only enough for ten minutes’ use. Setting of the plaster can be retarded by the addition of a little vinegar.

Press the filler into cracks on flat surfaces with a putty knife as in Fig. 9. In corners, this is done more easily with the finger, wearing a finger tip as in Fig. 10, or just putting some adhesive tape over the finger. A water-moistened sponge or rag is drawn over the filler to smooth it immediately after it is applied. When the filler is dry, sandpaper it smooth. Also sand down rough spots, trowel marks left from plastering and spots of dirt and brush bristles stuck to the previous coats of paint. Remove flaky or loose paint and feather the sharp paint edge with sandpaper as in Fig. 11, so it will not show through succeeding coats of paint.

Sealing the crack filler: It is necessary to seal the pores of plaster filling and old plaster bared by sandpapering, to prevent excessive paint absorption, which causes dull spots under the finish coat. This is best done with two or three applications of paint, Fig. 12, allowing each coat to dry before applying the next. Before sealing, wipe away all dust and brush the paint to a feather edge around the spot.

Preparing to paint: Before applying paint, read the manufacturer’s directions, which will vary somewhat with different products. Stir the paint thoroughly. All the pigment which has settled to the bottom of the container must be dissolved completely in the liquid in order to bring the mixture to a uniform consistency. Thin the mixed paint with the recommended thinner or reducer. The container from which you paint should be about half full. Cover the floor and any built-in furniture with a drop cloth or newspapers and arrange the stepladder or ladders and the extension plank. Where possible, it is preferable to work away from a window so that you can see the wet edge of the paint. This position will help you to avoid brush marks, laps and “holidays” (skipped places). Have clean cloths handy.
to wipe up drips and unwanted smears immediately before the paint sets. In interior work, the paint is flowed on with a minimum of brushing. However, too heavy an application on vertical surfaces may sag or run before it sets. Avoid applying paint in daubs; rather, dip the brush about 1 in. in the paint and apply to the surface with light strokes until the brush is “empty.” Do not brush out the paint as in exterior work. Stroke each separate application just enough to spread it uniformly.

**Paint the ceiling first:** When painting a room, take the ceiling first, setting up ladders and extension plank as in Fig. 13. Usually it’s more convenient to work a ceiling in strips from left to right, each painted strip being about as wide as you can reach easily. Remember that in order to get back to a wet edge at the starting point you’ll have to work fast. Try to complete each strip across the ceiling before the paint sets at the starting point. If the paint sets, it will be difficult to brush out the lap, as the fresh paint will build on that already applied.

Cut in the corner where the ceiling meets the wall with a single flat stroke of full brush width as in detail A, Fig. 15. A little pressure will be required to “fan out” the bristles when cutting the paint to the corner. Then lay paint on the ceiling with overlapping swirl strokes of the brush as in details B and C, Fig. 15. Once you acquire the knack, you’ll find this method of laying on interior paint simple and very fast. Another trick with the brush that’s worth learning is shown in detail D. By turning the brush slightly at the end of the stroke the bristles will come off clean without leaving a mark on the fresh
paint. If you are applying flat paint to a large ceiling measuring more than 12 ft. either way, it will be necessary to apply the paint in narrow strips, not more than 18 or 20 in. wide, if you are working alone. On large ceilings the job is best handled by two persons, one beginning in a corner, the other halfway across the ceiling. After this first strip has been painted next to the ceiling edge, you perhaps can work a somewhat wider strip. Do not stop work until the entire ceiling has been finished.

**Walls are next:** Proceed in similar fashion on the walls, starting at your left, and working from the ceiling to the baseboard in 2 or 3-ft. strips, Fig. 14. Use the same overlapping swirl stroke as on the ceiling. Brush bristles are fanned out to cut along woodwork and corners as in detail C, Fig. 16. Work up to the woodwork as in details A and B. Don't stop painting in the middle of a wall as this will cause a conspicuous lap; stop only at a corner or cabinet edge that extends from ceiling to floor, Fig. 14.

**Painting woodwork:** Sand rough spots and gouges, using 1/0 sandpaper on flat surfaces and No. 0 steel wool on curved surfaces. After brushing or wiping off dust, start painting at the top of cabinets, door and windows, and work downwards. Finish doors and windows first, then the frames, Figs. 17 and 18, following the painting sequence outlined in Fig. 18. Paint the top, bottom and sides of a door while it is open and let it remain open until the paint has dried. The baseboard is painted last, a cardboard or plastic guard being used as in Fig. 21, to prevent getting paint on the floor or dirt on the brush. The guard also is handy when painting windows. When the frame of a room door is a different color on each side, the meeting line of the two colors is made at the stop strip as in Fig. 20. On swinging doors such joints are made midway on the jambs. Use masking tape as in Fig. 19 to assure getting a straight line.

**Preparing varnished woodwork:** Paint applied to varnished or enameled surfaces often chips off in spots. To prevent or minimize this trouble, apply a coat of specially prepared undercoater which combines with the varnish and forms a better base for subsequent coats of paint or enamel. The undercoater also acts as a sealer to prevent bleeding of stain. If woodwork is stained but not varnished—or if the varnish has been removed, exposing the stain—apply a coat of prepared stain sealer. This will prove more dependable than shellac or aluminum paint formerly used for this purpose. When woodwork has prominent grain that cannot be concealed by brushing on paint, the last coat should be stippled. To prepare oil paint for stippling, mix in some white lead. A long-bristled brush is used for stippling. As the ordinary painter's
Masking tape is used to get straight meeting line on swinging-door frame where two colors are used.

When painting the baseboard and shoe mold, a cardboard guard prevents getting paint on the floor.

On hinged doors that swing in one direction the dividing line between colors is made at edge of stop.

night by immersing them in water. Wipe off the water on dry newspapers before using the brushes the next day. As soon as a paint job is finished, brushes should be cleaned thoroughly. When not in actual use, paint containers should be kept covered tightly. In case skin forms on paint and cannot be removed completely, stir the paint and strain it through a coarse cloth before beginning to use it.

Calcimine on ceilings: Calcimine is used on ceilings, except in the kitchen and bathroom which are painted. Old calcimine is washed off before new is applied and one fresh coat is sufficient. Use a calcimine brush to apply it uniformly in narrow strips and work as rapidly as possible until the entire ceiling is covered. Calcimine can be applied over a previously painted surface but paint should not be applied over calcimine as this will result in peeling.

Starch-coating over paint: To protect painted surfaces, particularly in kitchens, you can starch-coat them. Use laundry starch and follow directions for mixing as given on the starch package. However, use a standard measuring cup full of starch to a quart of water. Apply the cool solution with a calcimine brush or paint roller and stipple with a fine-grain sponge or stippling brush before it dries. The coating is transparent and is easy to replace when soiled, as it is simply washed off with warm water, using a sponge for the job.

Poultry Wire Protects Bulbs

To keep dogs and chickens from digging up bulbs before they have a chance to take root, lay a piece of poultry wire over the plantings. This will prevent the digging, and the wire can be removed when the plants begin to come up.

Jeff Sterns, New Bedford, Mass.
Water Frozen in Milk Cartons Cools Picnic Lunch Box

A portable refrigerator that will keep your picnic lunch cool for many hours can be improvised quickly by using a couple of empty milk cartons and a cardboard box. The evening before the picnic, fill the milk cartons about three-quarters full of water and, with a warm knife, seal the caps of the cartons so that the water will not run out of them. Then, insert the cartons in the freezer compartment of the refrigerator. When the cartons are removed in the morning, the water will have frozen into a solid block of ice. To pack the lunch, line the cardboard box with several layers of newspaper and lay the cartons and bottled beverages in the bottom of the box, placing the rest of the lunch on top of them. Place a few more sheets of paper over the lunch and close the lids of the box. When the ice in the cartons melts, the water will be retained inside them owing to the tightly sealed caps, thus keeping the box dry.

Donald F. Pecheck, Los Angeles, Calif.

Brick Impregnated With Kerosene Provides Weatherproof Campfire Fuel

Soaking an unglazed brick in kerosene for a day or two before going on a hunting or fishing trip will enable you to have a roaring campfire almost instantaneously. To carry the brick, wrap it in heavy paper and, when a fire is desired, simply ignite the brick with a match. Because of the kerosene absorbed by the clay, the brick will burn intensely for an hour or so even in a strong wind or rain. If one end of the brick is buried in a pall of sand or dirt so that the upper half projects, a fire for cooking or warmth can be had with comparative safety in either a boat or tent.

Tenoning Jig for Small Bench Saw Slides on Ripping Fence

For making cheek cuts on tenons, splitting cuts on miters and for making accurate cheek cuts on end half-lap joints, you need a tenoning jig on your circular saw. A serviceable jig for this purpose is easily made in a jiffy by using small pieces cut from ³⁄₈-in. plywood and ¾-in. solid stock and assembling as in the detail. As pictured, the jig rides on the ripping fence and for this reason some changes may have to be made in the dimensions to adapt the unit for use on different makes of machines. Join all parts except the fixed jaw with screws and glue to assure rigidity. When work must be held at an angle, as is required when grooving a mitered end for a spline, the jaws are removed and the work clamped to the vertical member of the jig with one or two C-clamps.

Donald A. Damon, Bedford, Mass.

Salt shakers won’t clog in humid weather if they are kept in a coffee can containing three or four ounces of silica gel. The can, of course, should be covered.
Locating Center of Wood Turning

The exact center of a wood turning can be located in a jiffy by using a try square and a straightedge. Just position the square over the end of the turning, as shown, and lay the straightedge along the 45-deg. angle. Then draw a line across the face of the turning. Move the try square and draw a second line approximately at right angles to the first one. The intersection of the two lines will be the center of the turning.

Ralph Frankart, Tiffin, Ohio.

Nails Supported for Starting By Pressing in Clay or Putty

Frequently, nails must be driven in places where it is next to impossible to support them with the fingers while starting. In this case, use a wad of putty or modeling clay to hold the nail in place. Just press the putty onto the surface, insert the nail into the putty and start with the hammer. When the nail has been driven far enough to support itself, remove the putty.

Ice-Cube Tray Holds Thread Spools

You won't have to spend time rummaging through the sewing box or drawer of the sewing cabinet to find a particular spool of thread if the spools are stored in a plastic ice-cube tray. These inexpensive trays will hold as many as 14 spools of thread, displaying them for quick selection. A few of the sections may be used for thimbles, dress snaps and pins instead of spools.

Shells From Old Auto Headlights Provide Mooring Buoy

An excellent mooring buoy for a small boat or a marker buoy to locate your favorite fishing hole can be improvised from two auto-headlight shells. The latter are soldered together and holes are drilled at each end to take a length of iron rod. After the rod is in place, the ends are bent to form eyes and the openings around the rod are sealed with solder. The holes in the sides of the shell are patched with squares of sheet metal soldered in place. When soldering, be sure to make all joints watertight. The finished buoy is painted bright red or yellow and one eye is tied to an anchor, the other eye riding above the surface of the water for mooring the boat.

Bells Sewed to Child's Play Suit Form Novel Tinkling Buttons

Round “jingle” bells provide novel buttons for tiny tots' play clothes. They tinkle when the youngster moves and make learning to button his own clothes a pleasant task.

Baking soda is an excellent cleansing agent for glassware as it will leave the surface sparkling. It will not scratch the glass and is harmless to the hands.
Tips for the HOME GARDENER
By Harold L. Sherburne

Save that old garden hose. Here are eight of many uses for it.

Short lengths of garden hose make handy stakes for marking and identifying seed rows. Just stuff the pocket in hose.

Punch holes along one side of leaky hose and connect to new hose. Plug open end and you have a handy garden sprinkler.

Lengths of hose punched and strung on a rope handle form an excellent kneeling pad for planting seeds and seedlings.

A length of perforated hose pressed over the tines of a rake permits cleaning in a jiffy by pulling off the hose.

Convenient scraper for muddy shoes is had by cutting pieces of hose lengthwise and nailing them to wooden base as shown.

Lengths of discarded hose are an almost unlimited source of emergency washers for leaky hose connections. Cut thin slices from hose as needed.

Cushion top of spade with hose to relieve foot fatigue. Slit hose lengthwise, notch and slip over spade handle.

A length of hose stretched between wheelbarrow legs and screwed under ends keeps legs from sinking into soft ground. Allow a little slack in hose.
Subsoil Irrigator From Scrap Pipe

For watering fruit trees in dry regions where there is little subsoil moisture, this irrigator is just the thing to inject water well below the surface of the ground. The unit consists of a 3-ft. length of %in.-in. galvanized pipe threaded at one end, a % in. - % in. reducer elbow and a % in. close nipple. The parts are assembled as shown in the drawing, the close nipple being used to attach the irrigator to a garden hose. The free end of the 3-ft. pipe is pointed by cutting the pipe with a hacksaw to form four triangular prongs and then pressing these together. Four holes are drilled through the pipe about 2 in. from the point. To use the irrigator, turn on the water until a stream about 1 ft. long shoots out from the holes. Then, with a twisting motion, sink the pipe deep into the ground near the drip line of the tree.

W. H. McClay, Pasadena, Calif.

Bending "Brake" for Sheet Metal Handles Large Work

By clamping sheet metal between two hardwood boards and hammering it with a wooden mallet, large sheets can be bent quickly and neatly without the use of a bending brake. First, select two straight 2 x 4s a few inches longer than the width of the sheet. Then sandwich the sheet metal between the boards with the edges of both boards exactly along the line on which the metal is to be bent. Clamp the boards tightly to the edge of a table top and hammer the overhanging portion of the metal to the desired bend. The result will be a straight bend along the edges of the boards.

Herbert E. Fey, New Braunfels, Tex.

Gooseneck Provides Pin-Up Lamp

Mounting an old gooseneck desk lamp on the wall and fitting it with a shade will result in a handy extra light for the den or workshop. Just drill two holes through the base of the lamp and fasten it securely to the wall with screws as shown in the photo. In this way, the lamp can easily be positioned to best advantage without taking up space on a desk top or workbench.—Bill Dean, Eugene, Ore.

Celluloid Jackets Protect Books

Covering the bindings of schoolbooks as well as volumes kept in a bookcase with celluloid jackets will prevent them from being marred while still permitting the titles to be read clearly. Medium-weight sheets of celluloid, which are sold in stationery stores for ring-binder inserts, provide excellent jackets. These are cut to the exact size of the book binding, except for an extra % in. at each end which is bent around the edges of the front and back covers to hold the jacket in place. These tabs are folded and creased with a paper knife before placing the jacket over the covers of the book.

Baby's Clothes Dried Indoors By Hanging on Playpen

If you do not have a basement or utility room and there is no space in the house to hang the baby's washing when the weather is bad, just turn the playpen on its side and drape the clothes over the rungs. This serves the purpose of a drying rack, holding a surprisingly large number of clothes. However, be sure to do this only with a painted playpen, as the moisture from the clothes will remove varnish.
Here are three latches designed by practical farmers to prevent barn-lot gates from being opened by livestock. In the first one, shown in the right-hand illustration, the top horizontal member of the gate strikes the projecting end of the top fence board as the gate is closed. Then a pivoted bolt, made from a piece of hardwood, slides past the fence post as shown, locking the gate securely. Another good latch, of the self-locking type, is shown in the center detail. A short length of flat iron bent back on itself and welded edgewise to a second piece of the same width forms the latch. The horizontal striker is welded to a lever at the point indicated and the lever is pivoted on a %34-in. bolt passing through a hole drilled in one of the gate boards. A screen-door spring supplies the necessary tension to keep the striker in the closed position. The striker guide piece is bent from %34-in. flat iron. Pulling back on the lever releases the striker and permits the gate to be opened. The latch locks automatically when the gate swings shut. A third latch, detailed at the left, is specially designed for hog-lot gates. The gate cannot be opened by being raised or by pressure applied from either side. The dual U-shaped latches are bent from %38 or %12-in. iron rod and pivot in special bearings made by welding short lengths of %38 or %12-in. pipe to pieces of flat iron. These are attached to the gate post with heavy screws and are spaced 18 to 24 in. apart. Short threaded sections are cut from %14-in. bolts and welded to one leg of each U-shaped latch to provide a means of attaching the handle which operates both latches simultaneously. Raising the handle lifts the latches and releases the gate.

Coiling Lengths of Wire Solder Makes It More Convenient to Use

Instead of hunting around for those extra lengths of wire solder, wind them in neat individual coils that are easy to find, and just pull the solder from the coils as needed. To do this, wind the solder in a loose spiral around a short length of dowel, allowing one end of the solder to stick straight out from the coil for a few inches. Squeeze the loops together to form a compact coil and slip it off the dowel. Then, pull the straight length of solder through the coil so that it extends a short distance from the other end. The coil itself provides a convenient handle for holding the solder when working, and the straight end is simply pulled down through the coil as the solder is needed.
MOTOR TUNE-UP

Now is the time to ready your car for the open road. This informative three-part story on engine tune-up shows you what to do to keep fuel, compression and ignition systems in top condition.

By C. E. Packer

PART 1

Fuel and Exhaust System

AUTO SERVICEMEN regard periodic engine tune-up as the most important single item in car care. Regular tune-up keeps the engine performing at top efficiency, resulting in minimum wear, maximum fuel mileage and greatly reduced repair costs. As a rule, a regular tune-up job begins with the fuel system, Fig. 1, the purpose of which is to combine fuel and air in the correct proportions at varying engine speeds, loads and temperatures. A badly clogged air-cleaner element can have the same effect on fuel consumption as driving with the choke in a partly closed position. It's easy to disassemble the air cleaner and just as easy to clean it by proceeding as in Fig. 2. Always re-oil the filter element before replacing it. To clean the oil-bath type of air cleaner, you proceed in much the same way except that generally the entire unit must be removed so that the oil in the reservoir can be drained out and the reservoir washed thoroughly with white gasoline or a suitable cleaning fluid, Fig. 3. When replacing the unit, refill the reservoir with clean engine oil to the level indicated. Be sure all parts are replaced in the proper position and that wing nuts and bolts are tightened to the correct tension.

Fig. 4 pictures the various related units of the fuel and...
exhaust system. One of the vital parts of the fuel system is the fuel pump and the sectional view, Fig. 5, shows how it works. In operation, the typical fuel pump is quite simple. An actuating arm riding a special cam on the engine camshaft pulls the diaphragm downward against a compression spring. The suction created by the downward movement of the diaphragm draws fuel from the tank through the inlet valve. As the actuating arm reaches the low point on the cam the compression spring forces the diaphragm upward, discharging fuel through the outlet valve and through the sediment bowl to the carburetor. Mechanical failure of the pump is comparatively rare but suspected cases of pump “failure” may be due to other causes, such as water and sediment in the fuel and pinpoint air leaks. Cleaning the sediment bowl regularly and keeping the fuel tank full in cold weather help to rule out the first two causes of trouble. Air leaks along the fuel line usually call for renewal of the faulty parts.

The engine warm-up period has a direct bearing on fuel mileage and it also is dependent on more than a properly operating cooling-system thermostat. In some cars, the fuel charge is passed over a hot spot cast in the intake-exhaust assembly as indicated in Fig. 6. The purpose of the spot is to preheat the fuel charge passing to each cylinder and thus assure complete vaporization during the warm-up period. A butterfly valve, which is operated automatically by a thermostat, controls the temperature of the hot spot by directing hot exhaust gases around it. In a cold engine, the valve is closed, but the automatic control slowly opens the valve by stages as the engine reaches operating temperature. It's important to check the action of this valve regularly to make sure that it is in working order. Apply a few drops of light oil to the valve shaft to prevent sticking. Some servicemen say that dry graphite blown into the bearing surfaces with a special applicator gives better results. Of course, it also is essential to keep the cooling system clean and the thermostat adjusted to give correct operating
temperature. Should the engine seem sluggish and the ordinary checks turn up no other cause, examine the exhaust pipe, muffler and tail pipe. A broken muffler baffle or a deep dent in either the exhaust or tail pipe can set up sufficient back pressure to cause the engine to overheat. Sticking valves also can result from this defect in the exhaust system.

In any fuel system, the fuel pump and carburetor are designed to work together. The pump maintains a constant level of fuel in the carburetor. The air dome on the pump cushions pump pulsations so that fuel is fed to the carburetor under uniform pressure. One important item on the regular tune-up schedule is inspecting and, if necessary, cleaning the fuel-pump valves, Fig. 5, and also the fuel strainer in the carburetor, Fig. 7. Accumulations of dirt or sediment in any of these parts are certain to cause trouble. The carburetor float, Fig. 7, controls the needle valve through which liquid fuel is admitted to the carburetor bowl as needed. A low float level causes difficult starting and a constant high level results in a major waste of fuel. As the moving parts wear, the float level changes. That's why it is necessary to check the float at regular intervals. The sectional view of a typical carburetor in Fig. 8 shows the location of the metering rod, vacuum piston and the high-speed nozzle, or jet. The idling jet, which supplies fuel to the engine at idling speed, is not shown. All these parts team up to provide the engine with the correct fuel mixture under varying operating conditions. As a routine check for faulty float level, many servicemen remove the air cleaner and inspect the open end of the high-speed jet while the engine is idling. If fuel appears in any quantity at the end of the jet, it usually is safe to assume that the float level is incorrect. It will be necessary to disassemble the carburetor to adjust the float and whenever the unit is disassembled for repair or adjustment it should be thoroughly cleaned and all openings blown out with compressed air before reassembling. These requirements make carburetor servicing a special job which few car owners can undertake because of the time, skill and special tools required. For this reason most car owners simply exchange the faulty unit for a new or rebuilt carburetor of a type suited to the car. Reputable service shops offer a sound, money-saving deal on this exchange. However, car owners who like to tinker with precise mechanical gadgets will feel sufficiently challenged by the
complexities of the job to do it themselves. For them, there are available carburetor-rebuilding kits for nearly all modern makes. These kits include all parts necessary to do a complete job of rebuilding.

Faulty operation of the modern automatic choke is rarely due to mechanical failure alone, but the unit does require periodic inspection, careful adjustment and occasional cleaning to keep it working properly. Fig. 9 shows a sectional view of a typical automatic-choke mechanism, the notes on the drawing pointing out and identifying the principal parts. Some units are provided with a summer and winter setting and this adjustment should be carried out on schedule. Although the control mechanism is quite simple, it is also very sensitive. Dirt on the bearing surfaces of the parts interferes with their operation. In late-model cars fitted with automatic chokes, the thermostat controls the choke valve and also operates the fast-idle mechanism during the engine warm-up period. At the time of the cold start, the choke valve is closed and the fast-idle mechanism holds the throttle partly open. As the engine warms to operating temperature the choke valve opens by stages, achieving the full-open position as the engine reaches normal operating temperature. Simultaneously the choke mechanism closes the partly opened throttle and the engine slows to normal idling speed. Parts remain in this position as long as the engine is hot. When the engine cools, the thermostat returns the parts to the cold-start position. Action of the thermostat is controlled by heat from the engine exhaust manifold which is conducted to the thermostat housing through a small tube. Heat from the manifold passes through a screen located in the housing, as in the sectional view. Clogging of this screen is the principal source of trouble with the unit. Periodic inspection and cleaning or renewal of the screen practically rules out the possibility of defective operation.

Late-model cars having automatic transmissions require a precise adjustment of the idling speed and the fuel mixture. Many service shops consider the idling adjustment so important to the satisfactory operation of the car that they use a tachometer to check engine speed when making the adjustment. The idling adjustment on nearly all carburetors is made by means of the adjusting screw shown at A in Fig. 10. Turning the screw in (clockwise) causes the engine to idle faster. The idling mixture is controlled by the screw B, Fig. 10. Turning the screw in “leans” the fuel mixture. Always have the engine at operating temperature before making these adjustments.

(To be continued)
Cardboard Box Taped to Wall Catches Plaster Chips

When cutting a hole in a plastered wall for installing a light switch or wall receptacle, it’s always a problem to keep the particles of plaster from falling to the floor and being spread throughout the house. However, by taping a large cardboard box to the wall directly under the spot where the hole is to be cut, practically all of the dust and chips can be caught. Use masking tape or other cloth tape that will not leave a mark when it is removed from the wall.

Kenneth J. Corse, Paterson, N. J.

Waterproof Fishing-Reel Bags

Cellophane bags of the type used to package dry foods provide handy containers for protecting fishing reels from moisture. Just place each reel in a separate bag and seal the open end by wrapping a rubber band tightly around it.


Twine Facilitates Hanging Picture

If the wire on the back of a picture is too short to be visible over the top of the frame, use a length of twine to aid in engaging the wire with the wall hook. Double the twine and loop it under the hook. Then slip the ends of the twine under the picture wire and, holding the twine taut, guide the frame down the twine until the wire engages the hook. When the picture is in place, release one end of the twine so that it may be pulled from the hook without disturbing the position of the picture.

Candleholder for Campers

Made in a few minutes from a jar or can cover and a length of stiff wire, this candleholder can be suspended from the top of a tent, a tree branch or a cabin ceiling. One end of the wire is bent and twisted around the rim of the cover and the wire is bent vertical to the cover, forming the hanging bracket. The wire is curved inward toward the center of the cover and the end is bent to form an eye. Suspend the holder with a length of cord, being sure that the distance between the flame of the candle and the eye in the bracket is sufficient to prevent the cord from being burned where it is tied to the bracket.

Stephen I. Griglak, Dayton, Ohio.

Socket Wrench Forms Nut Driver

By adapting a socket-wrench handle to fit the chuck of a spiral-type ratchet screwdriver, a tool is made that will quickly spin nuts on or off a bolt. The handle is cut off as shown and ground to fit the chuck. Then, using a screwdriver bit as a guide, a flat is ground on the end of the handle and a notch cut slightly below it. To use, chuck the handle in the screwdriver and press a socket of the desired size over the hex end.

Evan Wright, Topeka, Kans.
SEESAW TOY IS SUPPORTED BY CLOWN CUTOUTS

By Marvin Hartley

Youngsters, from toddlers on up, will have a circus with this novel seesaw. Two clown cutouts joined back to back form the pivot for the plank. The complete toy is made from stock lumber, the plank being a 2 x 10, narrowed at each end and sanded smooth to prevent slivers. The pattern for the clowns is enlarged full size and cut from 3/4-in. outdoor plywood. The boxlike base is filled with sand to prevent tipping. Enamel the toy in gay colors.

Sponge-Rubber Feet Under Television Set Absorb Traffic Vibration

Finding that vibration caused by heavy traffic on the street in front of the house interfered with reception of my television set, I solved the problem in a jiffy by cushioning the set with sponge-rubber feet. I simply cut four pads, 2 in. square, from a sponge-rubber kneeling pad and placed one of the pads under each corner of the set. Now, even the vibration from passing trucks has little noticeable effect on the picture. Although it is not as effective, thick felt padding may be used instead of sponge rubber.

William F. Gusehl, Milwaukee, Wis.

(May facilitate removing pictures from wall hooks, use a notched stick to lift the wires from the hooks. This will save stepping up and down from a chair or ladder.)

MAY 1950
RIDDING YOUR PREMISES OF

Farmers, estate owners and suburbanites who are troubled with sparrows will find these suggestions useful in destroying them

By Dale R. Van Horn

NEARLY everyone living in the country rates the English sparrow as one of the most persistent and aggressive pests there is to deal with, and nature lovers everywhere condemn the sparrows as enemies of all the smaller species of native songbirds. On farms, large flocks of sparrows consume quantities of finely ground livestock feeds the year round, and nesting and roosting habits in and near outbuildings make them a special problem for farmers and estate owners. Bird lovers in town often are forced to provide only large seeds in feeders in order to deprive the sparrows of a steady supply of food. This excludes not only the sparrow but the smaller songsters which cannot crack the shells of the large seeds. Individual nesting boxes and multiple-apartment homes, for such gregarious migrants as the purple martins, will be taken over by the aggressive sparrows during the nesting season. Once sparrows are established in a nesting box or a martin apartment, few native birds will contest the sparrows' occupancy for long. It is then up to the owner either to permit the sparrows squatter's rights for the season or to dislodge them by shooting, trapping or by destroying the nests as fast as they are rebuilt. In addition to taking over nesting boxes by force and driving away other birds, the sparrow also makes use of any other nesting sites available which suit its particular requirements.

Details in Figs. 2 and 3 show effective methods of keeping sparrows out of downspouts and attic louveres, which are favorite nesting sites. Another favored location for the sparrow's bulky nest is inside sliding-door tracks and in boxed cornices. Farmers will be well acquainted with this nuisance, and also with the fire hazard caused by the accumulation of straw and trash which the sparrow uses for a nest and carries into almost inaccessible places about farm buildings. Fig. 2 shows how to make a strainer or guard from heavy galvanized wire for downspout inlets, if you want to save the cost of a purchased one. Cut the wire with tin snips, shape the wire disk as shown and force it into the inlet as pictured. Some louveres built with wide slats seem to be acceptable to the sparrows as
SPARROWS

roosting accommodations, as the location offers a shelter and some degree of warmth in cold, stormy weather. A length of heavy screen fitted over the outside of the louver keeps the birds out. Keep the ends of sliding or rolling-door tracks closed with caps and close all openings into boxed cornices which are large enough to admit the birds. Of course, all these precautions merely inconvenience the sparrows. However, they do not get rid of them, at least as long as a supply of food is readily available about the home or country estate. But there are other ways to rid the premises of these annoying birds.

Farmers with limited time to spare use the direct approach. They scatter wheat, cracked corn or ground feed in an open spot where shooting is permissible. Preferably, the feed is simply sprinkled lightly in an area not more than 30 in. wide and 15 to 20 ft. long. A single blast from a shotgun directed along the length of this improvised sparrow cafeteria will bag from 10 to 50 birds, and also will frighten any survivors so badly they are not likely to return. Persistent shooting of the individual birds will have the same effect on the sparrow population about the farm or estate buildings. Town and city dwellers should keep in mind that shooting with rifles, shotguns or air guns is not permitted in most cities and towns within the corporate limits. Be careful also on farms and estates as indiscriminate shooting, especially with a rifle, may endanger both persons and livestock.

Probably the simplest and safest method of getting rid of sparrows is by trapping. A deadfall type of trap is detailed in Fig. 1 and, as will be seen, the whole setup is very simple. A square frame of any convenient size is covered on one side with heavy screen, such as hardware cloth, and the frame is supported in the raised, or set, position on a hinged trigger. This unit is placed in an open spot in the set position and grain or birdseed is scattered under the frame. Sparrows are allowed to feed unmolested for several days. By that time a large flock will gather at certain times during the day. Then, from your place of
wire mesh and twisted tight. A hinged wire door is fitted over an opening cut in the rear of the cage. Note that the position of the funnels divides the cage into two compartments. Unsuspecting sparrows enter through the small inner opening in the first funnel and thus into the first compartment. Owing to the small opening in the wire funnel, it is extremely unlikely that the trapped birds will find their way out again; instead, they will eventually pass through the second funnel into the rear compartment. This type of trap should be placed in an open spot where it is readily seen from all directions and baited with food. It must be left undisturbed for some time until the birds become accustomed to it. During this time you can be making the box for receiving the victims from the trap. This is shown in the lower detail in Fig. 4. To remove the catch from the trap, place the box with its open end against the opening at the rear of the trap and “shoo” the trapped birds into it with the paddle as pictured.

Details of the automatic trap shown in Fig. 5 are self-explanatory. This type of trap makes use of the sparrow’s propensity to explore any box having an opening large enough to permit it to enter. A tin can is pivoted inside the fake nesting box and so placed that, when in the horizontal position, one of the open ends is in line with the entrance hole in the box. As soon as the bird steps beyond the pivot point its weight tilts the can as in the lower detail and the victim slides into the bag suspended from the funnel-shaped bottom. There is no escape from this trap, for, once inside, sparrows are birds in the hand. One thing to remember in connection with trapping: In most states it is illegal to trap native songbirds, or to destroy them by shooting or by any other means. Although it is very unlikely that songbirds will enter traps with English sparrows, there is always the possibility. If you find protected native birds in your traps, be sure to release them unharmed, even if you must release a bag of sparrows along with them. Native songbirds are classified among our most valuable wildlife. If you intend to carry out extensive sparrow-trapping operations, it’s a good idea to consult your state Department of Conservation before going ahead with whichever method you decide to use.

Centering Inner Tube in Tire Casing Reduces Possibility of Blowout

Improperly aligning an inner tube in the tire casing is likely to cause a crease or fold in the rubber of the tube which may result in a dangerous blowout. To be sure that the inner tube is accurately centered when it is replaced in the casing, fill the inner tube to the correct air pressure with the valve core removed from the stem, and then allow the air to escape. After this, just replace the valve core and refill the inner tube with the recommended amount of air.

Wallace White, Stanford, Calif.
Inexpensive Wastebaskets Decorated Attractively
By Covering With Colored Leatherette or Oilcloth

Brightly colored coverings which lend eye appeal and durability to plain, inexpensive wastebaskets are just the thing to add a touch of color to children's rooms as well as an easy way to improve the appearance of waste containers used anywhere in the house. Leatherette or oilcloth forms the basic covering, and a wide variety of designs and initials cut from the same material or from colored cloth tape can be mounted over the background. Covering a cylindrical or oval-shaped basket having straight sides is simply a matter of cutting the material to the proper width and length. Then the starting end is taped to the side of the basket, the material brought tightly around and the free end glued in place so that it overlaps the starting end an inch or so. However, a pattern will have to be made prior to cutting out the covering for a basket with tapered sides. This can be done by laying the basket diagonally on a large sheet of paper and wrapping the paper around it. The top ends of the wrapping are folded inside the basket and the lower ends across the bottom. Then, the rims of the basket are indicated on the paper by marking their positions with a pencil line. A sharp knife or razor blade is used to cut the wrapping paper vertically down one side of the basket, the paper is removed and the pattern is carefully cut out along the pencil lines. The covering material is cut to size according to the pattern and applied to the basket as before.

Lever and Clamp on Hand Drill Permiit Boring Steel Beams

On a job that required the use of a hand drill to bore several holes through a steel I-beam in his basement, one homeowner experienced difficulty in exerting sufficient pressure on the drill to do the job. However, he solved the problem with an ingenious device made from scrap lumber. One end of a horizontal member is clamped to the lower edges of the beam, this being done by using two bolts inserted through the wood and spaced the width of the beam. Washers are slipped over the bolts and wing nuts are tightened on them to lock the wooden member in place. A vertical member, or lever, is bolted loosely to the drill frame (so that it can be moved back and forth) and then pivoted to the horizontal member with another bolt, as shown in the detail. To exert pressure on the bit, the lever is pulled toward the operator as the hand drill is turned.

Tom C. Hansen, Kansas City, Kans.

May 1950
C-Clamps Exert Pressure on Plywood Panels To Form Press for Flat-Drying Large Prints

Easily made from two pieces of plywood and four C-clamps, this low-cost photo-press permits obtaining perfectly flat enlargements. The top and bottom panels are of ¾-in. plywood, cut slightly larger over-all than the size of the largest print to be handled. Four flat steel plates are screwed to each panel to provide bearing surfaces for the jaws of the C-clamps. These plates are positioned approximately at the center of each edge. To use the press, sandwich the partially dry print between two sheets of photo blotting paper and then insert in the press. Tighten the clamps as evenly as possible and allow the print to remain in the press for at least 24 hours.—Edward L. Fisher, Milwaukee, Wis.

Photo Paper and Coin Tell Whether or Not Safelight Causes Fogged Prints

If you're at a loss as to the cause of dull, muddy-looking prints, try checking the location of the darkroom safelight. To remove any doubt as to whether or not the light is causing partial fogging of the paper, place a small piece of sensitized paper under the safelight, positioning it at normal working distance from the light. Then lay a coin in the center of the paper. Turn on the light and leave the paper in place for as long as it probably would be exposed during ordinary processing conditions—3 minutes would be a fairly accurate estimate. Then develop the paper like a regular print. If the spot covered by the coin is lighter than the rest of the paper, you will know the safelight is too bright and should be located farther from the developing trays.

Abrasive Disk Mounted at End of Flash-Gun Case Cleans Bulb Contacts

It's a good idea to rub the base contact of a flash bulb across an abrasive surface several times before inserting the bulb in the gun, thus removing possible corrosion and assuring positive firing action. If the bottom of the flash-gun battery case is not coated with an abrasive, cut a disk from a sheet of emery cloth and cement it to the bottom end of the case.

Reflector Forms Portable Safelight

Screwing a colored bulb into a clamp-on photoflood reflector provides a portable safelight that can be set up in a moment wherever it is required. Plugged into a wall receptacle, the reflector can be clamped to any convenient object and readily adjusted as needed. Be sure to allow the recommended distance from safelight to print to avoid fogging.
GUN-SIGHT FINDER
for fast-action movies

By M. G. Winterton

FOR MAKING movies of birds in flight, panning a racing car or shooting spontaneous action at outdoor games, movie fans need an open-type view finder with which the swiftly moving object can be centered instantly. A new optical gun sight of the reflector type made for use on shotguns is just the thing for this fast camera work. In use, the sight projects an illusionary dot which provides an aiming point, and its greatest advantage is that there is no small aperture on which the eye must be centered when picking up the action. By making the metal-and-plastic bracket detailed below, the gun-sight finder can be used with the camera mounted on a tripod having a pan head, or attached to a gunstock aimer as in the photos at the right. Dimensions given below are only general and will have to be changed to adapt the bracket for use with different cameras and types of tripods. To align the reflector-sight dot with the lens, and to make sure that when the dot is on the action the latter is in exact register on the film, it may be necessary to shoot a few test frames and have them developed. Of course, it is possible to align the sight quite accurately by using the camera view finder.

Here's the reflector sight and supporting bracket in use on movie camera mounted on a pan-head tripod.

Freehand panning with a gunstock aimer, or pointer, enables the cameraman to record high-speed action.
lighting Prints From Underside Indicates Trim Line

By moving the trimmer to the edge of the table and placing a light below the table to illuminate the overhanging portion of the print, you can judge within a fraction of an inch just where the knife blade will cut the paper. The light will be clearly visible through the translucent paper, forming a definite line along the edge of the trimmer. A lamp with a reflecting shade, a photo spot or a clamp-on photoflood reflector can be used to throw a bright beam of light against the underside of the print. If the clamp-on reflector is used, it can be mounted on a cleat which is fastened vertically to the end of the table.

Virginia Hanson, Santa Monica, Calif.

Sunglasses Substitute for Filter

If you're shooting a landscape with interesting cloud formations and don't have a filter to bring them out, use a pair of sunglasses as an emergency substitute. Holding one lens of the glasses in front of the camera lens while taking the picture will produce much the same effect as using a regular filter. The darker the glasses the more they will darken the blue portion of the sky. However, if the glasses are extremely dark, be sure to use a longer exposure.

Solutions Stored in Medicine Bottles Are Dispensed With Eye Droppers

Photographic solutions which are used in small quantities are easy to handle if they are stored in medicine bottles having eye-dropper tops. The eye droppers permit measuring out the solutions accurately enough for all practical purposes. This type of bottle can be purchased from most drug stores. Bottles which originally contained medicine can also be used after cleaning.

Signature Printed on Greeting Card

One amateur photographer who makes greeting cards for himself and his friends discovered an easy way of printing the signature right on the sensitized paper. To do this, he cuts a small section from the black, overexposed portion of a negative and also cuts an opening, slightly smaller than the section of film, in a paper card. The negative is taped, emulsion-side-up, over the opening and the signature is written on the negative with a soft pencil. Then, after placing the film against a window-pane or on a ground glass lighted from the underside, the signature is traced with a stylus. The latter, which should have a chisel point, is used to cut through the emulsion only. Finally, the strip of signature film is removed from the card and fastened to the printing mask.

CAUTION—SHADOWLESS REFLECTOR

Under certain conditions, there is danger of electric shock when using the photo reflector described on page 211 of our March, 1950 issue. When wired as shown, the reflector serves as one side of the circuit. This could cause severe electric shock should the reflector be touched while plugged into the electrical source. To be safe, insulated sockets should be used instead of auto taillight sockets, which were suggested, and the sockets should be wired in parallel.
Rotary HEDGE TRIMMER

By Paul Will

INVENTED by L.O. Hansen of Waterloo, Iowa, this novel hedge trimmer really makes the clippings fly. It's operated manually and utilizes a common hand grinder to provide the ready-made mechanism for operating a rotary blade. With one handle pivoted to the crank on the grinder and worked back and forth like a bellows, the blade is rotated at high speed with little effort. Used where electricity is not available, it's the next best thing to a motorized unit, and with practice and proper coordination, a constant speed is easy to maintain, as the momentum of the blade, plus the gears in the grinder, help to keep the blade whirling.

Almost any grinder can be adapted, the clamping bracket being sawed off to leave a suitable stub for attaching the fixed handle. The original trimmer, shown above and detailed in the drawing at the right, was fitted with a special cast-iron yoke, part C, to pivot the movable handle and link it to the crank on the grinder. However, a simplified version of the linkage is given in the drawing on the next page which shows how the yoke can be fashioned from flat iron.

The blade consists of a piece of flat iron, part D, to which a serrated mower section is riveted at each end. The complete blade...
is accurately balanced to locate the exact center and then drilled at this point to fit the diameter of the grinder arbor. Two nuts and lock washers are used to fasten the blade securely to the arbor, after first bolting a sheet-metal blade guard to the grinder with sheet rubber mounted between. At the rear, the guard protects the hands but leaves the whirling blade exposed at the front to allow the trimmer to be fed into the hedge and to permit watching the progress of the trimming. Consequently, care should be exercised to prevent injury through careless use of the exposed portion of the blade. Short lengths of broomstick were used for handles on the original trimmer but, in the alternate version shown at the left, square stock is suggested to simplify attaching the handles. If a wood lathe is available, the square stock can be turned down at the ends to take bicycle handle-bar grips. Note in the details that parts A and C of the linkage are tapped at one end to permit locking the pivot bolts in place with a nut on the underside. Washers are placed on each side of part B and a little grease is applied to the pivot points to provide smooth operation. Part A can be either peened or welded to the arbor, depending on the particular type of grinder used for the trimmer mechanism.

Container for Pipe Compound

Improvised From Oilcan

Fitted with a self-contained applicator, an oilcan serves as a convenient dispenser for pipe-joint compound. A large screw eye is soldered into the end of the spout, the latter being cut off if necessary so that the opening will receive the threads. Then, the handle of a small paintbrush is cut down, inserted in the large end of the spout and held in place with a nail. Screwing the cap onto the can holds the brush immersed in the compound and, by means of the screw eye, the dispenser can be hung from a hook in the shop or truck. Fitted in this way, oilcans also provide excellent glue cans for the home workshop.—Carl Tretinyak, Austin, Minn.

Quick-Detachable Long Tongue

Fitted to Tractor Trailer

Farmers who still prefer the adaptability of a good team of horses for hauling loaded and empty trailers to and from fields where cornpickers or combines are working, will find this drawbar extension a timesaving accessory. Only one extension is needed to serve a number of trailers. By fitting the drawbar of each trailer with a special loose-pin clevis and a U-shaped holder, as detailed, the extension is quickly changed from one trailer to another. Make all metal parts of heavy flat iron and attach with bolts and lag screws. The fitting at the end of the long tongue is bent to form a lug for the neck-yoke ring. Use hardwood for the tongue extension.
On isolated farms, ranches and in cabins where electricity or gas refrigeration is impossible, preserving food and cooling drinks during the hot summer months is easy with this iceless cooler. The unit is essentially a wooden framework draped with cheesecloth or burlap, the cloth serving as a wick to draw water from a sheet-metal tray mounted at the top. Evaporation of water from the cloth lowers the temperature of the air inside the cooler. The framework is simple to build and the shelves are of open, slat-type construction, the size and shelf area being determined by the items which are to be stored. The door at the front of the unit is made by hinging a wooden frame to one of the posts and covering the frame on both sides with cloth. A second door may be installed on one side of the cooler to facilitate removal of the contents. The bottom shelf is a piece of sheet metal, the corners of which are notched to fit around the posts. The edges of this shelf overhang the framework slightly and are bent downward to drain excess moisture into sheet-metal drip pans fitted around all four sides of the cooler. To keep the floor dry, the entire unit, including the drip pans, is set on a large sheet-metal tray. This is made merely by bending the edges of the sheet upward and soldering them together at the corners. The cheesecloth is hung over the edge of the water tray at the top of the cooler so that one end remains in the water and the balance of the material hangs down to cover the framework completely. Burlap, though not as neat appearing as cheesecloth, is somewhat more efficient for this purpose. On the original cooler, drinking water was kept in a stone jar stored on the top shelf. A spigot from the base of the jar projected through one of the cloth sides so water could be obtained without opening the doors.

David F. Costello, Fort Collins, Colo.

Combination Creep Feeder and Sunshade Protects Calves on Open Range

Young calves which are allowed to run with the herd on open range frequently suffer from exposure and insect pests. When they reach the age where they can be rationed dry feeds, they must either be segregated or be subjected to crowding and possible injury by the larger animals at feeding time. A Montana rancher found the solution to this problem by using portable creep feeders which are towed to the range with a tractor. The creeps are simply A-frames made from 2 x 4s and covered with wide boards. Each unit is mounted on 4 x 6-in. skids. Wooden crossbars are nailed across the open ends of each shelter at a height which is sufficient to allow the calves to pass underneath them but low enough to prevent the entrance of the larger animals. A feed trough, or bunk, is placed lengthwise through the center of the shelter.

E. V. Reyner, Townsend, Mont.
USE THE RIGHT ABRASIVE

Part II

By W. Clyde Lammey

IN BOTH finishing and refinishing procedures the preparation of the surface by sanding, as outlined in Part I of this series, is one of the most important steps in the whole process. However, the use of coated abrasives continues through the step-by-step procedure right up to the final finishing coat. Use of fine abrasives smooths the finishing material, removing and leveling such defects as small dust specks, air bubbles and the fine ripples which sometimes develop in finishing materials laid on with a brush. By making good use of abrasive know-how, the home craftsman will find that it requires a minimum of effort to prepare new wood for finishing and also to restore scuffed, scratched and chipped finishes to the original luster.

Whether you are sanding down an old varnish finish preparatory to refinishing or are sanding new wood, it's important to begin with the coarse abrasive and progress by separate steps to the fine and very fine grades. The reason for this is that the whole process is simply that of removing the coarse, medium and fine scratches made by the respective grades of paper until the surface feels satiny smooth to the touch and the scratches can no longer be seen. On the coarse and medium papers, each abrasive grain removes considerable material from the surface at each stroke. This cutting action leaves a tiny groove, or scratch, which casts a shadow in oblique light, making the scratches visible both on the bare wood and under any clear finish. If a stain is used on such a surface, the pigment in the stain will "build" in the scratches and dull the grain pattern, giving the job a flat, unattractive appearance.

Packaged abrasive sheets in various grades ranging from very coarse to very fine make it easy for the home craftsman to keep on hand a supply of garnet, aluminum-oxide and silicon-carbide paper both for planned refinishing jobs and also for those which may turn up unexpectedly. Although the waterproof sanding papers are commonly used in industry for finishing operations on metals and metal-finish undercoats, they are comparatively new to the home workshop. In the finer grades, these papers are considered by most finishers as being superior to pumice for rubbing down final coats of lacquer, varnish and enamel. Now, many experienced home craftsmen use them exclusively for this purpose. Waterproof papers can be used with either rubbing oil or water (the procedure is known to finishers as "wet sanding") and in final rubbing and polishing operations they will produce a low-luster finish of satin smoothness. If a high-luster finish is desired, the process is carried one step farther, using specially prepared polishing compounds.

In the preparation of new wood and the
sanding of old finishes to produce a smooth surface for the application of either varnish or enamel, the step-by-step procedure is the same but the grades of abrasive used must be varied according to the nature of the surface and the age of the old finish. If the old finish is smooth, then a light, wet sanding with fine and very fine paper will do the trick. One important point should be kept in mind when sanding down old finishes: It's advisable always to use water as the sandpaper lubricant. Rubbing oil is rather difficult to remove entirely from an enameled or varnished surface which has been cut by sanding. As a rule, oil is used only on the final finish coat. If confronted with a refinishing job, such as a cabinet or

table, on which the finish is very old and oxidized to the point where it is badly checked in addition to being marred and scratched from long use, it is up to the finisher to decide whether to remove the old finish entirely (complete refinishing) or simply sand the old finish down until it is smooth. Very often the latter procedure will produce satisfactory results, that is, so far as the quality of the finish goes. However, if the original finish was clear, or if it has been applied over stain, then the grain of the wood must be considered. Age darkens the wood on old pieces, sometimes to such an extent that the grain pattern is almost obliterated. In this case, it is necessary to take off the old finish with prepared remover.
To furniture finishers, a complete refinishing job means taking off all the old finish down to the bare wood. The job starts literally "from scratch," with an old occasional table, marred, scuffed and scratched like this one is from long, hard usage. The first step is to apply a remover to soften and lift the old finish so that it can be scraped off easily with a wide-bladed scraper. When there are several coats of a pigmented finish, such as enamel, more than one application of remover may be necessary.

Above, the first sanding with coarse abrasive removes disolorations and exposes the wood in its natural color. Successive sanding steps prepare the surface for filler and sealer which are sanded down as in Fig. 23. Below, after applying, the final finish is wet-sanded between coats with very fine sandpaper.

Above, after the surface has been prepared by sanding, Fig. 22, the stain and sealer are applied and allowed to dry. Then the surface is sanded lightly to prepare it for succeeding finish coats. If you want a fine, high-luster finish, the final step is rubbing down the finished surface with a polishing compound, below.
and sand the surface to bring out the grain.

It's comparatively easy to repair scratches on refrigerators, Fig. 17, metal kitchen cabinets, washing machines and ironers by a step-by-step procedure similar to that used on wood. The first step is to feather-edge the area around the scratch with waterproof silicon-carbide paper in the very fine grade. Water is used as a sanding lubricant and the sanding motion is made from the center of the damaged spot to the edges. This operation feathers the finish uniformly down to the bare metal, Figs. 15 and 16. When this step has been completed, the area is coated with metal primer, sprayed on. You can rent a sprayer from any well-stocked hardware store. When dry, the primer is lightly wet-sanded with very fine silicon-carbide paper, Fig. 18, the important thing being the sanding of the outer edges to level them flush with the surrounding surface. After the primer has been leveled, the finish coats of lacquer or enamel are sprayed on. Usually this is done by spraying a mist coat first, followed by a full coat. With the ordinary spray gun, the mist coat is produced by reducing the amount of enamel in proportion to the air volume. After the finish is dry, it is sanded lightly with very fine paper, using either water or oil as a lubricant and paying special attention to the sanding of the edges where the new finish builds onto the old. It takes very careful work here to reduce the finish to uniform thickness without ridges or ripples. Next, the spot is polished with a specially prepared polishing compound, working with a circular stroke and including all the area covered by the new finish, Fig. 19. Polishing blends the new finish into the old so that light reflections are equalized over the whole surface, thus hiding the repair.

Using very fine silicon-carbide paper and polishing compound, enamel finishes on refrigerators and other household appliances,
which are discolored with age, can be made to look like new simply by wet-sanding and polishing uniformly over the whole surface. Wet-sanding removes a very thin film from the discolored surface, exposing new pigment. Polishing restores the original luster.

Figs. 20 to 25 inclusive picture the step-by-step procedure in refinishing a small table which has become badly scratched and marred by long use. This is a typical complete refinishing job, as the old finish is first removed entirely as in Fig. 21, using a prepared remover. Next the surface is coarse-sanded, as in Fig. 22, to remove discolorations and restore the original color of the wood. Then the sanding is continued through three more steps to smooth the surface. After the application of stain and sealer, the surface is sanded, Fig. 23, in preparation for the application of the finishing coats, which are sanded down as in Fig. 24. Then if you want a fine, high-luster finish, rub down the surface with a polishing compound as in Fig. 25. As a rule, finishers use polishing compound only on varnish and lacquer finishes. Also, it is better to use the garnet papers rather than silicon-car-

bide papers, which are more commonly used on enamels and other finishing materials applied over metals.

By use of abrasives which are now readily available, you can reclaim old work that looks hopeless in its present condition. The door, Figs. 26, 27 and 29, is a good example. First, the paint is removed as in Fig. 26. Then the preparatory sanding proceeds through the regular steps as in Figs. 27 and 29. Fill all dents and deep scratches with wood filler before the final sanding. Here is a good trick to know when sanding a door such as the one shown: Sand the rails (horizontal members) first, then take the stiles. This procedure will avoid scratches at the joints where the grain of the horizontal and vertical members meets at right angles.

Homemakers have discovered that very fine silicon-carbide paper is just the thing for cleaning blackened kitchen utensils, Fig. 30. A few strokes with the paper brightens the most stubborn discolorations and, after washing and wiping with a soft cloth as shown, pots and pans, skillets and teakettles look like new again. In some cases, it may be necessary to use a medium or fine paper, particularly on ironware. In any case, always finish the job with the very fine grade to remove the scratches left by the coarser grit. Do not use the coarser grits on copper or any plated kitchen ware. In the home shop, tools that have become rusted, such as handsaws and chisels, can be cleaned and polished with the fine papers as in Fig. 31. Use a few drops of oil to prevent the abrasive from clogging. Clean the bottom of a rusty hand plane by taping a piece of fine aluminum-oxide paper to the bench top and then stroking the plane lightly over it, with the plane iron raised. Cut abrasive paper into strips or squares with a small pair of tin snips as in Fig. 28. When cutting strips to fit a sanding block of the type shown in Fig. 32, cut the strip slightly wider than the block.

(To be continued)
Hardboard Paint Shield for Lathe Headstock

Slipped over the headstock spindle, this hardboard shield provides protection for both headstock and lathe bed when spraying or brushing a finish on work mounted in the lathe. The shield does not interfere with normal operation of the machine and allows work to be conveniently finished without removal from the faceplate. The shield consists of two pieces of hardboard or heavy cardboard cut large enough to completely cover the front and side of the headstock. A hole ¼ in. larger than the lathe spindle is cut through the front panel and positioned so that the bottom edge of the board will rest on the lathe bed when it is slipped over the spindle. A notch is cut in the rear edge of the front panel to engage any projecting portion of the machine. This keeps the shield from tilting or moving out of position so that the spindle will not come in contact with the edge of the hole. A second board which covers the side of the headstock is hinged to the front member with cloth tape or with a canvas strip glued to both panels. A piece of wire bolted to the side panel is located so that it can be hooked over a lever or other convenient projection. Cloth “aprons” are glued to the top and bottom edges of the front panel, the top one being used to cover the headstock, gearbox, etc. The bottom one is pulled out to cover the front portion of the lathe bed. The shield folds flat when not in use, requiring little storage space in a drawer or cabinet.

Roland Cueva, Heyburn, Idaho.

Straps Polish Tractor Axles

To facilitate sliding the wheels on the axles of his tractor when it is necessary to change the tread, one farmer keeps the axles free from grime by means of leather straps. One strap is fastened around each axle and weighted, as shown in the photo. As the axle revolves, the leather polishes the metal.

L. H. Houck, Jefferson City, Mo.

Preventing Rust in Waterpots

The waterpots at the grinding wheels in our shop were becoming lined with rust as a result of the oxidation of steel particles from the tools being ground. To remedy this situation, we simply added a few drops of soluble cutting oil to each waterpot.

Max Levine, Little Rock, Ark.

Straight-Line Connections Dampen Pump Hammer

In a special installation employing a duplex plunger pump, the pump impulses appeared to by-pass the air chamber and were being dissipated throughout the discharge system with resulting damage to valves and other fittings. Called in to remedy the trouble, one plumber, although puzzled at first by the unusual performance of the pump, finally hit upon the cure. He simply removed the pipe tee and riser to the air chamber, detail A, and plugged the outlet. Then he made the discharge-line connections to the air chamber as shown in detail B.—Elton Sterrett, Houston, Tex.
PORTABLE HOIST for JOB SHOPS

By Hi Sibley

READILY adaptable for use in any job shop where heavy machine parts must be raised to exact height and rolled or swung into position, this portable hoist has several special features. The adjustable crane is mounted on a three-wheeled dolly having an A-shaped frame made from steel channels welded together as in Fig. 1 to form a rigid unit. The three-point support permits the unit to stand firmly on uneven floors while the hoist is being operated. The low dolly will roll under the front end of any car or truck so that an engine can be swung in or out of the frame by direct vertical lift of a worm-gear ed winch. The original hoist was built by Jay Roberson of California for use in his garage repair shop.

The crane pivots on a spindle mounted at the upper end of a supporting column which is braced and welded into the dolly frame, Fig. 1. A 3½-in. rope sheave is mounted on the pivot spindle as shown in the assembly and sectional views in Fig. 1. Dimensions of these parts are given in Fig.

3. The crane is adjusted for height by means of a large turnbuckle, one end of which is attached to the crane by means of a pivot bolt; the other end is threaded and passes through a hole drilled in a steel plate welded across the ends of the dolly side frames. Note that the column brace is slotted to permit the lower turnbuckle rod to pass through it and fasten to the frame.

A caster-type front wheel fitted with a detachable handle makes it possible to maneuver the loaded crane into places where there are only inches to spare. The caster and its supporting arm are built up entirely by welding together members cut from flat steel, pipe and shafting. Note in the left-hand details in Figs. 1 and 2 that pipe is specified both for the caster-wheel spindle and the pivot shaft. If cold-rolled steel shafting is substituted, the assembly will operate more smoothly. The same is true of the rear dolly wheels and shaft. When steel shafting is used, the wheels should be bronze-bushed. If desired, the rope sheaves
in the crane also can be fitted with bronze bushings for smoother operation. When assembling the spindle lugs for the 6-in. sheave, be sure that the parts are in line. If the sheave is not correctly aligned, the steel cable will tend to climb the flange causing undue wear on both the cable and sheave and possibly resulting in breakage. Note that a guard, or fender, is welded between the lugs carrying the upper sheave spindle and the free end is bent to conform to the curvature of the sheave. The guard prevents the cable from jumping out of the groove in the sheave when the hoist is being moved, or when the cable is being payed out or taken in without a load. Should the cable jump out of the groove, it may wedge between the sheave and the lug, making it difficult to free the parts without damage.

Assembly of the winch is detailed in Fig. 2. The necessary gear reduction to operate the winding drum is obtained by using an auto steering unit having a continuous worm gear. The worm-and-sector type of steering gear cannot be used satisfactorily. The winding drum is built up by welding steel disks to the ends of a short length of 2½-in. pipe. Holes are drilled in the disks and filed square to fit the squared shaft projecting from the worm-gear housing. Provide a cotter pin to hold the drum in place. The drum and gear housings are held in place on the crane column by two brackets shaped from flat iron and welded to the column as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. It's important that the assembly be placed at an angle so that it will align with the idler sheave. Weld another bracket to the column to carry the brake arm, Figs. 1 and 2. Fit a brake drum on the squared worm shaft. The lined brake shoe is supported by a lug welded to the brake lever as in Fig. 2. A torsion spring, attached to the brake lever and the column brace, applies sufficient pressure to prevent the drum from moving after it is stopped at any point. A stop pin welded to the column holds the brake shoe clear. Note that the handle, or crank, Fig. 2, is provided with three squared holes, equally spaced. The center hole and the one next to the handle give a short crank throw for raising or lowering the hoist quickly.
ELECTRONICS TODAY

TODAY'S clocks can do almost anything — turn your radio receiver on and off, even start your electric percolator and have coffee ready when you wake up to music. They open safes, set off bombs — and now we have one that talks, using an Electronic Narrator shown being installed in the clock in photo A. The recording device consists of an amplifier and a tape recording that permits advertisers to give the time their personal touch; for example, the clock on the First National Bank could bid passers-by the time of day and, at the same time, remind them that money deposited before tomorrow will earn a special dividend. The device repeats the same message or different messages through the loudspeaker system every day at predetermined intervals.

Two new tiny germanium diodes are shown under a magnifying glass in photo B. These crystals in special containers are used in television receivers to replace certain tubes in video detectors and in d.c. restorer circuits. They have longer life than tubes.

An improved type of TV front-end tuning assembly is illustrated in photo C. It covers all 12 channels and is said to eliminate tracking difficulties. It features interchangeable channel inductors, and concentric control shafts for channel selection and fine tuning. It can be installed by any TV serviceman.

Wire recorders are now used for low-cost dictation and provide natural voice playback. The units take up very little room on office desks, as shown in photos D. Foot control and desk "mike" leave hands free.
CAPACITY-OPERATED

By L. M. Dezettel

THIS HIGHLY sensitive capacity-operated electronic relay has many useful applications around the home and in industry. It is easy to construct with ordinary radio and electronic parts that are available from all parts houses. The approach of a person to an antenna wire attached to this unit operates a 110-volt a.c. relay that may be used to turn on a light or start model trains or electrically operated appliances in window displays, as illustrated in sketch A. Passing persons merely place their hand near a 5 or 6-in. metal disk to which the antenna wire is fastened on the inside of the window. As a burglar alarm, it is ideal for turning on floodlights, or ringing a bell, for the protection of persons or property as illustrated in sketches D and E. The antenna or “alarm wire” can be concealed around a window frame or door, or attached to a sheet-metal plate under a walk.
ELECTRONIC SWITCH

The instrument can be plugged into any convenient 110-120-volt a.c. outlet in the store, home or garage. The remote flood light, alarm bell or other appliance to be operated is then merely plugged into one of the relay outlets mounted on the rear of the unit. Based on simple electronic principles, this capacity-operated switch shown in Fig. 1 consists of a free-running oscillator connected to an antenna wire. When a person or object comes close to this antenna wire, the additional loading to the oscillator circuit causes a drop in voltage across the grid-leak resistor. This voltage change is transferred to the 2050 Thyratron tube, which operates the relay closing the contacts that supply line current to the devices to be operated. The oscillator tube is the tetrode section of the dual-purpose 117L7/M7GT tube, the diode section being used to rectify the a.c. and convert it into d.c. for more sensitive operation of the oscillator circuit. Antenna wire lengths of about 10 feet will operate nicely with this.

(Continued to page 226)
HOME-SET SERVICE HINTS

A—After making repairs in a short-wave set it is important that all wiring be replaced in the original position, especially wires going to the band switch. These wires should be kept their original length and must not be close to the filament leads.

B—Ordinary rubber window wedges may be used for radio chassis mounts when the original mounts are lost, as exact replacements are sometimes difficult to obtain. These wedges are tapered. When they are inserted and chassis screws tightened, cut off ends.

C—Speakers which do not have dust guards over the air gap in the center of the cone may be protected by cementing a disk of cloth to the cone as shown. Cut this circular piece of cloth slightly larger than the opening. Apply cement around edge only.

D—After installing a new filter condenser or other part, make certain that it is not too close to a chassis mounting flange or bracket. Try the screw as shown in the photo to be sure that it will not touch any part or wire when chassis is mounted.

E—When no standard tube tester is available and you have a "dead" radio receiver on your hands, an emergency check can be made on the tube-filaments with an ordinary ohmmeter as illustrated. If no meter reading is obtained, the filament is burned out.

F—Paper-type fixed condensers are tested for leakage with an ohmmeter as shown. One lead of the condenser is disconnected in the circuit and the ohmmeter test leads are clipped across the condenser terminals. Use highest ohmmeter scale; good condensers show only slight meter deflection at time of contact, after which needle returns to starting point.

G—Before replacing the receiver in the cabinet, see that asbestos mat is tacked down so that it will not interfere with the installation of the chassis. Also check to see that the control shafts are centered in their holes in the front of the cabinet before the chassis mounting screws are tightened. Finally, make sure all tubes are tight in their sockets.
Kodak's newest f/4.5 miniature $29.95, including Federal Tax

Just look at these fine-camera features—and then look at the price.

A Indicator to show you the type of film in camera.

B Finger-tip shutter release.

C Enclosed optical eye-level view finder, large and brilliant.

D Telescoping lens barrel with easy-to-read lens and shutter speeds, depth-of-field and focusing scales...simplified average exposure settings marked in red.

E Color-corrected Kodak Anaston f/4.5 Luminized Lens, in Kodak Flash 200 Shutter with built-in synchronization.

See the Pony 828 accessories, too, at your Kodak dealer's—ton leather Field Case for $6.50; Kodak Flashholder for $11.08, including Federal Tax; as well as Kodak Combination Lens Attachments and Kodak Metal Cable Releases.

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Lumenization steps up screen brilliance 50%

Projector includes Kodak Projection Ektanon Luminized Lens, 4-inch f/3.5, for big pictures at short distances; Luminized condenser system for over-all image brilliance; 150-watt lamp, slide carrier, and 12-foot cord—all for $29.50. Be sure to team up the Model IA with your new Kodak Pony 828 Camera—for your "double reward" in color prints and projection. At your Kodak dealer's.
Care and Feeding of Engines

ABOUT CYLINDER SLEEVES

When you have to repair an engine with a cracked cylinder, or with walls scored too deeply to re-bore, the answer is, "Sleeve 'em and save 'em!" "Wet" or "dry" cylinder sleeves will make that engine work again. A wet sleeve replaces the entire cylinder wall and comes in direct contact with the cooling liquid. A dry sleeve is pressed into a bored-out cylinder. Fig 1 shows how a dry sleeve is fitted into a cracked cylinder to provide a new cylinder wall. Write Sealed Power, Muskegon, Mich., for complete instructions.

WHY 3.1 TO 1 GEAR RATIO?

Ever wonder why transmission and rear axle gear ratios should be such odd figures as 3.3 to 1 or 4.1 to 1, when a straight 3 to 1 or 4 to 1 is so much easier to figure? You can discover the answer easily by taking a 2 to 1 timing gear set, marking opposite teeth, and seeing how often they meet—every second revolution. Now take a 4.1 to 1 set from a rear axle and repeat the step. The ring gear has 41 teeth, the pinion 10 teeth, and the marked teeth meet only once in 41 revolutions. If something chips a tooth, the wounded teeth won't mesh again until they have had a chance to be smoothed off by other teeth.

ALWAYS REMOVE PISTON PINS

Two shopmen were recently hurt severely while machining pistons because they didn't remove the pins. Always be sure to do this before putting a piston in a lathe or grinder. Otherwise, as heat is generated, the piston will expand and the pins will loosen. Nothing is gained by leaving the pins in, as they have to be removed later to attach the rod.

Now about rings: Always use Sealed Power Piston Rings when re-ringing. The Sealed Power MD-50 Steel Oil Ring does the world's best job of oil control, even in badly tapered and out-of-round bores. Your dealer has Sealed Power Rings or can get them for you. They save gas, save oil, restore original power to your engine and lengthen its life. A postal to "Sealed Power, Dept. G-5, Muskegon, Mich."

UNIT BUT THE LONGER THE WIRE THE MORE THE WIRE ITSELF LOADS THE OSCILLATOR, AND THE LESS RELATIVE EFFECT A BODY COMING CLOSE TO THE WIRE WILL HAVE ON THE UNIT. WITH AN ANTENNA WIRE UP TO ABOUT 5 FEET LONG, A BODY approaching within 2 FEET OF THE WIRE WILL TRIP THE RELAY. WHEN A SHORT PIECE OF WIRE IS ATTACHED TO A SHEET-METAL PLATE ABOUT 2 FEET SQUARE WHICH IS CONCEALED UNDER A WALK, OR ON THE BACK OF A DOOR, EXCELLENT RESULTS AT HIGH SENSITIVITY ARE OBTAINED.

The pictorial wiring diagram appears in Fig. 2, and the base is detailed in Fig. 3. Photos B, F and G should be examined carefully before starting construction. The oscillator coil, a close-up photo of which is given in photo C, is a Miller No. 695, especially designed for operation in a capacity-operated relay. When soldering to the terminals of this coil, be careful not to overheat the terminal lugs; use a well-tinned hot soldering iron with rosin-core wire solder and ordinary No. 20 insulated hookup wire. The locations of the various

(Continued to page 228)
POWERGLIDE DRIVE
HAS EXCLUSIVE NEW FEATURES

A great advance in automatic hydraulic transmissions has been achieved by Chevrolet in a unit of its own design and manufacture called Powerglide. The name describes its operation—a smoothly increasing flow of power through an infinite number of drive ratios, uninterrupted by gear changes. In fact, the drive is gearless under all normal driving conditions, but a set of reduction gears is provided for driving in reverse and for forward driving on extremely steep hills or whenever extraordinary power is required.

One of the most important new features of the Powerglide is an extra set of vanes, which set up a rapid flow of oil when the car is coasting—providing a strong braking effect from the engine, and permitting push-starts at speeds as low as 12 m.p.h.

The Chevrolet unit is made chiefly of stampings, in place of intricate castings. For ease of servicing, the oil-filler is under the hood, easily reached.

CHEVROLET MOTOR DIVISION
General Motors Corporation
DETROIT 3, MICHIGAN

Oil forced from the pump unit is directed against the vanes of the turbine, which turns the propeller shaft.

TURBINE

PUMP

OVERRUN COUPLING

A high-speed whirling flow of oil transmits torque.
WHO ELSE WANTS BETTER SHAVES AT LESS COST?

NOW! this Top Quality FULL-WEIGHT Blade in Handy DISPENSER 10 for 25¢

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• Here's the smoothest-shaving razor blade that money can buy. Try it on hard-to-shave spots. If any other blade gives you better shaves than Blue Star, we'll give you double your money back! Get Blue Star blades in handy dispenser today.

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PRECISION ASR PRODUCTS

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terminals on the coil are clearly shown and identified in the top views in photo C and the pictorial wiring diagram, Fig. 2. The R. F. choke coil and the trimmer condenser are a part of the oscillator-coil assembly.

When all parts are mounted and the wiring is completed, set up the capacity-operated relay unit in a spot near where you want relay operation. Connect a piece of wire to the insulated antenna post and to a sheet-metal plate for preliminary experiments. There are only two points of preliminary adjustment, and only one adjustment need be made after the preliminary ones. Adjust the small mica trimmer condenser on top of the oscillator coil by turning the screw one way or the other, and at the same time adjust the sensitivity control R6 on the front panel until the most sensitive operation is obtained by listening to the clicking of the relay as you place your hand near the metal plate. Try to obtain an adjustment that permits you to operate the relay with the greatest distance possible between your hand and the metal plate. You may find it necessary to ground the chassis base of the unit to a radiator or cold-water pipe. The ground terminal is No. 3 on the terminal strip on the rear of the unit. This grounding prevents capacity effects to the chassis itself from upsetting your adjustments. Once the preliminary adjustment has been made, it is only necessary to adjust the sensitivity control for various conditions of antenna variations. Adjustment should be made only after the unit has had about 3 or 4 minutes of warm-up time.

The circuit has been arranged so that the two a.c. outlet sockets on the back of the unit for the light, alarm or other equipment are each wired differently. One is wired so that the lamp or burglar alarm comes on when the antenna wire is approached. The second is arranged for other applications and the lamp is always on but goes off when the antenna wire is approached. Terminals 4, 5 and 6 on the terminal strip are independent relay contacts that may be used for external switching if desired. When jumper wires, from terminal 1 to terminal 6, and from terminal 2 to terminal 5, are connected as shown in Fig. 1, the unit operates as a burglar alarm in that once a person approaches the antenna wire, the alarm bell starts to ring and continues to ring even though the intruder may leave the vicinity of the antenna wire. Without this jumper arrangement, the bell would stop ringing as soon as the intruder got out of the sensitive area of the antenna wire. Detailed student material list R-389 is available from Popular Mechanics Radio and Electronics department upon receipt of ordinary letter postage.
When your patching turns out like this... and if your car feels like this... it's time for a new tube...

That cushiony feeling lasts longer with Marfak!

Marfak is extra tough and stretchy—specially compounded to cling to bearings and vital wear points. That's why Marfak protects the chassis—not for a few hundred miles but for 1,000 miles and more! Enjoy that swell “cushiony” driving ease that lasts. Applied by chart, never by chance. Get Marfak lubrication today at your Texaco Dealer, the best friend your car ever had.

The Texas Company
Texaco Dealers in all 48 States
Texaco Products are also distributed in Canada

Tune in... Texaco Star Theater starring Milton Berle on television every Tuesday night. See newspaper for time and station.
Rocket to the Moon
(Continued from page 94)

Coolant that is injected through numerous holes in a solid motor wall would spread out into a thin film, would evaporate and be replenished. The effect would be the same as in sweat cooling.

Using one of the new chemical fuels and one of the new methods for preventing the motor and nozzle from melting, engineers could build a step rocket that could roar out into space and never return. The bumber or booster unit would fall back to earth after its power was consumed. The main projectile would attain a velocity in excess of seven miles per second, the estimated velocity of escape. Such a rocket could be aimed to land on the moon and it could even carry a human passenger but there is no possibility with present fuels of making a return trip. Not enough reserve fuel could be carried for taking off from the moon. A round trip will have to wait until a true atomic power plant is developed.

Meanwhile, all the other problems associated with landing on the moon and returning to earth have been studied. The manufacture of a space craft, accommodations for the crew, navigation, the making of safe landings all have been the subject of research by numerous investigators.

The rocket that Pal Productions visualizes for its picture "Destination Moon" is 150 feet tall and has a loaded weight of 250 tons. Of this amount 200 tons is devoted to ordinary water that would be used as the reaction mass in the atomic motor. The space-ship's frame weighs 40 tons and the remaining 10 tons are devoted to crew, accommodations, equipment and insulation against the motor's radiation.

Roaring upward from a western desert before dawn, the space-ship's motor blasts for almost four minutes, at the end of which time the ship would be at a height of 810 miles. At this point the motor would be shut off and the rocket would be in free flight, reaching the moon in an estimated 46 hours. The flight path would be an elongated and modified S-curve because of the gravitational pull of the earth and the moon. Course corrections could be made with rocket power in space if necessary.

Power also would be used for turning the craft around as it approached the moon's surface to permit a tail-first landing, and for reducing its speed so that an eggshell landing could be made. Sufficient fuel would remain, it is estimated, for the rocket to depart from the moon on the return trip to earth.

The picture dramatizes many of the
(Continued to page 236)
Four great fishing motors, built for trouble-free years of fishin' fun. One is right for you—right for your boat, your kind of fishing. The "big two" are brand new...and pretty special any way you look at them! New Fleetwin with Duo-Clutch gives you new handling ease...you start in Neutral, "idle" when you like! New Fastwin gives you Gearshift control with Neutral-Forward-Reverse! For smaller boats, the Sportsman and Sportwin with Evinrude's famed Fisherman Drive that "lets you go wherever there's water to float your boat." See your Evinrude dealer...look for his name under "Outboard Motors" in your classified phone book.

Send today for free catalog of the complete Evinrude line of six models. Address...

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*FLEETWIN 7.5 H.P.*...weighs only 45 pounds. New Duo-Clutch for Neutral starting and shifting and Safe-Cap Propeller Drive—no pin to shear!

*FASTWIN 140 H.P.* Gearshift Control with Neutral-Forward-Reverse. Separate Cruise-a-Day Tank provides capacity for a full day of "stay-and-go" fishing without refueling.
It's easy to have modern oak floors

Just lay PREFINISHED Bruce oak flooring right over your old floors...no sanding or finishing

You can give your home new beauty at low cost with a prefinished Bruce Hardwood Floor. Completely finished—even waxed—at the factory, this highest quality oak flooring can be nailed right over old floors. No sanding or finishing...no mess or smell. Ready for use as soon as laid. Made in strip, block (parquet), or Ranch Plank design.

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As a service to our readers in solving the hundreds of problems pertaining to a home—inside or out—the editors of Popular Mechanics invite you to present your problems to The Clinic Editor for help and advice. Address your questions to The Clinic Editor, Popular Mechanics Magazine, 200 East Ontario Street, Chicago 11, Ill.

Plaster Patch Shows

Q—Recently I painted two rooms which had been papered. I had to patch several large cracks and one small opening. After applying two coats of paint the patches still show, both on the walls and ceilings. What caused this and what can I do to remedy the defect?

A—Usually there are two reasons for plaster patches showing through paint: (1) The patching material may not be exactly flush with the surrounding surface. (2) The new patching material may be more porous than the wall plaster and absorb more of the oil in the paint, causing it to dry flat. On a job like yours, painters usually size the patches when dry, or spot them with the same paint that is to be applied to the wall, or apply an undercoater as the first paint coat. Probably in most cases the latter procedure is the best, but in your case you should tryスポットing the patching by allowing the paint to dry thoroughly, then applying another coat of the same color to the entire room. This procedure may work out satisfactorily and, if so, it will save you the expense of repainting the two rooms with two coats.

Kerosene Aids Floor Sanding?

Q—I have just finished sanding the floors in two rooms, using a rented machine. The floors were in rather bad condition and I had plenty of trouble removing the old varnish as the sandpaper clogged almost as fast as I could renew it. I would like to sand all the floors in my home but hesitate to undertake the job because of the amount of labor and time required. I've been told that kerosene poured on the floor will prevent clogging of the machine. Is this true?

A—It is true that kerosene applied to the floor will help to prevent clogging of the abrasive on the sander drum, but suppose the abrasive strikes a nail and the resulting sparks ignite the kerosene? Because of the dangerous fire hazard, we could not recommend this procedure. Experienced floor finishers minimize clogging of the abrasive in machine sanding by taking off old varnish in several separate passes of the machine over the floor, using a coarse, or very coarse, open-coated abrasive. The machine is permitted to move over the floor

(Continued to page 234)
STEvens
"22"
THE 22 FOR YOU

For rapid fire work at moving targets... for "zinging away" at small running game... for more sport shooting—a Stevens autoloader is the "22" for you.

Savage—"first in the field" to build lightweight, low-priced autoloading rifles—offers you a choice of tubular or clip magazine models. Either type gives you features (see below) you’ll find in no other "22" autoloader, regardless of price.

See these two models at your dealer's. Write for free catalog of Savage, Stevens and Fox rifles and shotguns.

SAVAGE ARMS CORPORATION
Firearms Division, Chicopee Falls, Mass.

SAVAGE - STEVENS - FOX Rifles and Shotguns

"FIRST IN THE FIELD" FEATURES OF STEVENS "22" AUToloADERS

THREE RIFLES IN ONE—instantly adjustable as an autoloader, bolt action repeater or single shot. As autoloader, shoots .22 long rifle cartridges; as bolt action repeater or single shot, .22 long rifle, .22 long or .22 short cartridges.

MAGAZINES—Choice of tubular or clip.

BARRELS—precision rifled for extreme accuracy... crowned muzzles... takedown.

STOCK AND FORARMs—wood, walnut finish... man's size.

Simples, most trouble-free action of any "22" autoloader... Easily, quickly disassembled for cleaning without tools.
You can build this lawn furniture at less than 1/2 the store cost—without special tools or skill! Easi-Bild Full-size Patterns are easy to use. It's the dress pattern idea applied to flat lumber. Just trace, saw, and assemble. And for stronger joints throughout, use CASCOPHEN, Casco's new, waterproof glue.

**How to choose a glue!**

CASCOPHEN—waterproof glue for outdoor projects
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**Send coupon for furniture patterns to:**

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P. O. Box 215, Pleasantville, N. Y.
Enclosed is $... for patterns checked below.
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**Clean Paintbrushes**

Q—What's the best way to clean and store paintbrushes after use? I have tried several methods but none have proved entirely satisfactory. The bristles are always left with a residue of dried paint. Any attempt to remove this damages the brush. How does one get the brush thoroughly clean?

W.A., St. Louis, Mo.

A—Much of the difficulty of cleaning a paintbrush thoroughly is due to improper methods of handling while the brush is in use, especially when painting a ceiling or cornice. If the brush is dipped deeply into the paint, it will gradually accumulate a full load of paint at the base of the bristles. This is difficult to remove entirely, even when fresh. When painting on overhead surfaces, dip the brush lightly and slap off excess paint on the side of the container. Clean the brush immediately after use with a paint solvent. Pure turpentine is good but there are other solvents which are fully as effective and less expensive. Many painters use a lacquer solvent known as "wash thinner." This solvent is ordinarily used to clean spray-painting equipment after use. The brushes are placed in the solvent and allowed to stand for a few minutes, and then they are slapped lightly over the edge of a board to remove both solvent and paint. After cleaning, brushes to be stored should be washed thoroughly in soapy water and laid flat to dry. When dry, wrap the bristles in oiled paper and seal with adhesive tape. Before using, dip the brush in thinner.

**Water Pipes "Sweat"**

Q—The cold-water pipes in my basement sweat during the summer months and drip water onto the floor, keeping it constantly wet over a large area under the pipes. What is the cause of this? Will the dampness damage the floor? Is there any inexpensive remedy?

G.T., Columbus, Ohio.

A—The pipes are much colder than the air which surrounds them and for this reason moisture in the air condenses on the cold surface. One way to prevent the condensation is to paint the pipes (when dry) with ordinary oil paint or enamel and before it dries spread fine sawdust or ground cork over the wet paint. It may be necessary to apply two or more coats of paint and sawdust in order to coat the pipes uniformly with this covering. Another method is to wrap the pipes with several thicknesses of newspapers, fastening the paper wrappings in place with cord or adhesive tape. Still another and much quicker way is to purchase a ready-mixed pipe coating which is especially made for this purpose. Apply the material according to the manufacturer's instructions.
Wayward light is disciplined— for better television!

Now television pictures gain still greater contrast and definition—through research originally initiated by scientists at RCA Laboratories.

Their discovery: That wandering light waves inside a picture tube—and inside the glass itself—may cause halation and blur an image's edges. By introducing light-absorbing materials into the glass, the wayward flashes are absorbed so that only the light waves which actually make pictures can reach your eyes!

Glass companies, following this research, developed a new type of glass for RCA... Filterglass. Minute amounts of chemicals give it, when the picture tube is inactive, a neutral tone. In action, images are sharper—without brilliant contrast between light and dark areas. Reflected room light is also reduced.

See the latest in radio, television, and electronics at RCA Exhibition Hall, 36 West 49th Street, N. Y. Admission is free. Radio Corporation of America, RCA Building, Radio City, N. Y.

The new Filterglass faceplate gives you more brilliant pictures on today's RCA Victor television receivers.
problems that will confront the first explorers of space; with no gravity to hold them down, the crew members find that they float around almost out of control inside the rocket's pressurized compartments. They use suction-cup shoes to walk from spot to spot inside the space ship. On the moon, of course, they must wear space suits with self-contained oxygen because of the lack of atmosphere, and they can communicate only by means of gestures and walkie-talkie radio.

A safe landing on the earth at the end of the return trip is accomplished by making three deceleration circuits around the globe to bring the speed down to a point at which the lower atmosphere can be entered safely, and then gliding in on the space-ship's vestigial airfoil surfaces.

There isn't much doubt that a trip to the moon and back actually will be made some day; some enthusiasts are convinced that a missile will be landed on the moon in the next 10 or 15 years even if a manned space ship isn't built for the trip by then. The chances are that when the space ship is built that it will be pretty much like the ship that the movie portrays. "Destination Moon" will be released this fall and George Pal jokingly says that he wants to make the release date as early as possible, otherwise the newsreels may beat him to it!

Yellowstone's Other "Old Faithful"

(Continued from page 162)

get a cloud formation. Another time, to the disgust of two companions, he sat on top of a mountain for three days waiting for the haze to clear—just a little more.

Haynes explains this determination as due to the fact that he is the son of one of the pioneer shutter greats. Today, there are 1.5 cameras per family in the nation, but in the eighties Frank Jay Haynes is believed to have had the only camera in the Territory of Wyoming. In 1888, for instance, he was the only photographer to accompany the historic expeditions into the park by President Chester A. Arthur and Henry Villard, president of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

Photography was then almost as mysterious as the erupting geysers of Yellowstone. Anyone who had mastered the art was usually referred to as "professor."

By 1884, "Prof." Frank Jay Haynes' cameras had grown from small stereoscopic equipment to giant instruments, taking pictures in sizes from 4 by 5 inches to 20 by 24 inches. A horse-drawn sledge was required to move the largest camera. One

(Continued to page 238)
Beware of the Danger Zone

THE MORE YOU DELAY - THE MORE YOU PAY

**WARNING ZONE**
- Engine loses pep...

**DANGER ZONE 1**
- Engine begins to smoke...

**DANGER ZONE 2**
- Engine pumps oil badly...

**DANGER ZONE 3**
- Destructive wear sets in...

- Needs a tune-up
  - Clean, adjust and re-time ignition. Clean fuel supply and carburetor screens. Adjust carburetor. Adjust spark plugs and fan belt. Check compression and vacuum readings for symptoms of ring wear.

- Needs new piston rings and minor engine repairs
  - Tune engine.
  - These repairs are comparatively inexpensive and put the engine back in peak condition for thousands of economical miles. Delay puts the engine in Danger Zone 2.

- Needs new piston rings and major engine repairs
  - Tune engine.
  - These repairs naturally cost more than those needed in Danger Zone 1, but they put the engine back in condition for thousands of additional miles of satisfactory service. Delay leads to costly Danger Zone 3.

- Needs new piston rings and complete overhaul
  - Repairs cost three or four times as much as in Danger Zone 1.
  - Clean, re-install and tune engine.

---

Piston rings should be replaced... at the first sign of wear!

When oil-pumping starts in your car, you're driving into the Danger Zone. Your piston rings should be replaced at once. If you delay—until you're in the second or third Danger Zone—your repair bill will be two to four times as great.

If your car is in the Danger Zone now, ask your motor service man for Hastings Piston Rings. They stop oil-pumping, check cylinder wear and restore performance.

It's the best money you can spend on your car.

HASTINGS MANUFACTURING COMPANY • HASTINGS, MICHIGAN
Hastings Ltd., Toronto

TOUGH on Oil-Pumping • GENTLE on Cylinder Walls
man's load was a single 20 by 24-inch heavy glass plate in its holder. Jack Haynes winces today when he recalls carrying the plates for his father.

Haynes received his finest tribute from his father when he was 21. His father had sent him with a horse and buggy 19 miles to West Thumb to photograph the lunch station there. When Jack arrived, the sky was as gray as his grandmother's shawl and snow was slowly settling down in quarter-size flakes.

Crossing his fingers, Jack set the diaphragm of his camera at "128" and exposed the negative for almost a minute. The result was a beautifully clear picture without a snowflake showing. Because of the long exposure, the moving flakes had not affected the emulsion.

"By gad, Jack," beamed his father, "you'd better take 'em all in the snow."

From photographing lunch wagons, the son eventually progressed to taking pictures of the nation's presidents. He covered the visits to the park of Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Haynes has photographed hundreds of other famous park visitors, from the Crown Prince of Sweden, who excited his aides by slipping off for a moonlight hike with Haynes, to Thomas A. Edison who upset park officials by declaring the honor of having a peak named after him. And he has taken a lot of pictures of "just folks."

The folks didn't start coming to the park in great numbers until automobiles were first permitted to enter in 1915. Before then, the wealthy and scientists on expeditions dominated the visitors.

"The tourist of today, with modern transportation, has an opportunity to get much more out of the park than the visitor of 50 years ago—if he'll take advantage of it," says Haynes. "In the early days, too much time was wasted traveling between points of interest. Now, in many cases, too little time is taken in stopping at the points. Why, some people even go through without seeing Old Faithful."

Haynes adds that today's visitor can also get much more authentic information on the park. Before the Ranger Naturalist Division was established in 1916, information was supplied by stagecoach drivers, bellboys, maids and porters. What "scientific" information you got depended entirely on what stagecoach driver did the expounding.

"I remember one driver telling some tourists about Beryl Hot Spring," says Haynes. "He declared that if you threw a horseshoe in it the shoe would get red hot."

(Continued to page 240)
THE lure of motorcycling is like nothing else in this world!
Once it’s in your blood... brother, you’ll never be the
same again! From then on, nothing can ever equal the fasci-
nation of cruising down a scenic country road with a Harley-
Davidson purring quietly under you... the he-man thrill of
soaring up a steep hill like a climbing jet... the breathless
feeling of levelling off for the straight-aways... the sense of
power and freedom you get whenever you settle back in the
saddle and "give ’er the gun!" In no other sport are friends so
loyal, gals so glamorous. Nowhere is fun so easy to find as at
exciting race meets, hillclimbs, gypsy tours and other club
events. A Harley-Davidson is your ticket to endless good times,
to happy, healthful outdoor enjoyment. You can own one on
easy terms. So why not get started now? See your dealer today.

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opportunity to line up with the greatest name in motorcycles. Write or wire for complete information today.

MAY 1950
A common question of tourists in those days was, "Say, when is this whole place going to blow up?"

Haynes thinks the visitors of the early days were more destructive than those of the present.

"A great pastime used to be carving entwined hearts with initials on the trees," he recalls. "Logs were poked down craters. Trees were stripped of low branches to make beds. In fact, the sprawling juniper was called the campers' mattress. Young trees were cut down to make pole corrals for horses. If damage were done proportionately by each visitor today, we soon wouldn't have any park. The people have been educated to be more careful — and they generally are — but they still do a lot of damage in the park each year.

Probably the biggest problem today is keeping tourists away from bears and vice-versa. It wasn't always thus, explains Haynes. People and bears used to keep their distance, but with the automobiles came the roadside beggar bears and tourists who give them a handout, sometimes ending up without a hand.

Haynes believes Yellowstone has become, in recent years, America's greatest melting pot. In modern sport and outdoor clothes, men and women of all walks of life follow a common trail in Yellowstone.

One thing that hasn't changed in the last half century, however, is the taste of the customer in photographs. Generally, he doesn't want tricky or arty shots, but merely views of scenes as he saw them.

One year Haynes took a picture in Norris Basin from an unusual angle. He photographed some dead trees silhouetted against the steaming background of their destroyers—the geysers. The scene was on the arty and symbolic side. Haynes submitted it to a contest sponsored by the American Museum of Natural History and walked off with a top prize. Pleased, he put the picture on sale in his park studios.

"Hardly sold any," chuckled Haynes. "I had them withdrawn from all studios as they were merely collecting dust. Some of our best sellers were taken from the position the tourist chided me about—leaning out a car window. I have climbed high mountains and snaked down into deep canyons to get unusual views, but that was mostly pleasure—not business."

Asked what picture he was proudest of, Haynes gave a thoughtful puff to his cigar, then said:

"A shot taken last summer of Old Faithful. It's quite a striking view, really. My daughter, Lida, snapped it with a dollar camera. I think she will do well in carrying on the house of Haynes."
THIS 5 ROOM ALADDIN READI-CUT HOUSE $1492

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Every hour you can put in on the construction of your Aladdin home means a saving to you of from $2.00 to $3.00 per hour on its cost. That means a SAVING of from $15.00 to $18.00 for every day you work on it... Depending on the size of the house, the carpenter work sums up to from three hundred hours to twelve hundred hours... WITH MOST OF THE SKILLED LABOR ALREADY PERFORMED when you receive your Aladdin Readi-Cut, what an opportunity you have to bring down the cost of your new home to practically a pre-war level. Our drawings and instructions cover everything from the foundation up, so you can save any part, or even all labor costs.

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URANIUM FISHER RESEARCH LAB. INC., PALO ALTO, CALIF. GOLD

MAY 1950
A FISTFUL of power, this new streamlined beauty makes light work of hundreds of jobs. Drills fast and true. Also as well for wire brushing, polishing, grinding, buffing.

MORE POWER TO YOU CRAFTSMEN
That's just what you get in Millers Falls new Utility Drills. Electrically and mechanically, they are the last word in modern design—engineered for the particular requirements of craftsmen, farmers, home workshop owners and repair shop men. They're lighter, more powerful, better built. Best of all, they're Millers Falls and the biggest dollar values of any drills ever made. Ask for them at your hardware dealer's.

No. 912 1/2-inch Drill
$35.00

A RUGGED HUSKY for men who want full 1/2-inch capacity. More powerful than any comparable drill on the market — yet it weighs only 8 lbs. Genuine No. 33B Jacobs Key Chuck. Smooth die cast aluminum frame and attractive grey hammered enamel finish. It's the standout in its class!

No. 2912 Stand
$16.80

This Invisible Plastic, Melamine
(Continued from page 140)

He had a terrible time. "To produce melamine crystals from basic powders requires tremendous heat and pressure," he recalls. "All we had was an ancient autoclave (like your pressure cooker). But we got our crystals."

Later, when production started in a big two-story stainless-steel autoclave, the whimsical crystals popped out another surprise. They cooked solid. It took two days to chip out the rugged melamine with hammers and chisels.

Once crystals were produced, they would not mix with anything to make molding compound. Finally, chemists quit trying. They simply stirred the stuff in formaldehyde and threw in a little cellulose "filler" to give it body. Then they dried it, placed it in a few ash-tray molds under high pressure and temperature. To their surprise, out came three tiny ash trays—like no plastic ash trays ever made! Their high shiny surface looked like cut crystal. Food acid wouldn't mar them. Hot soapy water only made them shinier.

What could be done with such a plastic? Plenty. The war was on. Navy ships and subs needed plastic switch panels that wouldn't burn or shatter. Army planes needed insulation on distributors that wouldn't burn off under arcing of sparks in the high, thin air.

Here was a natural field for melamine plastic, both hard and self-extinguishing. There was one catch. It was brittle—like onyx or crystal. What was needed was some kind of cheap "filler" to increase toughness and prevent chipping. All sorts of strange things were poured into the mix: chopped shirt tails, ground glass, nuts, coconut husks, paper pulp, asbestos, walnut shells and glass fiber.

What came out of these recipes was an assortment of molding plastics that would take all day to list. Asbestos combined with melamine today makes a plastic with ruggedness, heat resistance and high arc resistance. It withstands temperatures from 40 below zero to 400 above.

Glass-fiber filler not only produced fireproof switch-panel boards for ships, it made the stuff so strong you could drop it on concrete without breaking off more than a few chips.

Even the chopped shirt tails weren't as silly as they sounded. When mixed with melamine formaldehyde resin and molded, they made a mighty tough piece of material. The mottled effect produced by the bits of cotton gave it an odd surface design.

(Continued to page 244)
SUMMER AHEAD

INSTALL NEW

CHAMPION

SPARK PLUGS

MAY 1950
If there was any field in which melamine really did what it was expected to do, it was in the "laminate" department. Laminates are made by constructing a "plastic sandwich" of paper which has been dipped in resin. These sheets are partially dried, cut to size, laid one on top of another. The pile is then placed in giant hot presses where the mass fuses.

Melamine did everything that previous resins tried to do but couldn't. Stubborn melamine crystals today make counter and tabletop surfaces that resist food acid.

Melamine resin also makes an unbeatable glue. For years plywood manufacturers used urea and phenolic resins for bonding layers of wood. Phenol resins were waterproof, but bled through to the surface of the wood, making ugly splutches. Urea resins were clear, but lacked complete water resistance. Melamine resin, the boys knew, was clear and water-resistant. But would it stick?

Various mixtures were prepared, smeared on layers of wood, and run through a hot press. The result: a permanent bonding agent, waterproof, colorless and so rugged that a testing lab hung a Jeep in mid-air, hooked to a two-inch block of wood cemented together with the plastic.

Of all the surprises in melamine's growth, probably none had the chemists as baffled as its odd behavior in leather.

Leather is tanned with chrome salt. Pure white leathers formerly were unobtainable, because chrome treating plus bleaching left the inside grayish. The bleach would not penetrate throughout. Cyanamide chemists had a hunch that melamine, with its intense penetrating powers, might do the job better.

It did—in the lab. But the minute tanners tried it, everything went blooie. First, the resin-tanning solution caked up in the leather. When they licked that, by thinning out the resin with formaldehyde, the leather smelled like a hospital corridor.

They were about to give it up when a tanner up in Gowanda, N. Y., called excitedly one day to tell them he'd gotten wonderful results with a sample of melamine resin that had been sent to him.

"How did you do it?" the chemist asked.

"Never bothered to pickle the hide," replied the tanner. Just went through the deliming, then tanned the stuff with melamine resin. Cuts out an extra step and works like a charm. My white leather's upgraded about 50 percent."

Today melamine resin is going into white leather for shoes, luggage, fancy pocketbooks. Leather treated with it is soft, plump and white clear through.

Melamine's invasion into the paint field

(Continued to page 246)
NEW! DUNLAP Utility Grinder

Look at this convenient feature!
Both wheels extend 1/2-inch beyond motor housing, allowing grinding across the face of the machine.

Compact! Handy! Low-priced! Guaranteed!
Invaluable for light maintenance work in your home, kitchen, farm or shop! Two 4-1/2-in, vitrified grinding wheels: coarse and fine. Bronze bearings. Adjustable, removable steel tool rests. Die-cast housing; rubber cushion feet. Powerful single-phase 110-120-volt 60-cycle A.C. motor with 2 fans. 3500 no-load R.P.M. Off-on switch; 6-ft. cord; plug. 6-1/4-in. between wheels; 8-1/4-in. high. Guaranteed for 1 year against defects in materials and workmanship.

CRAFTSMAN Capacitor-type Ball Bearing Electric Motors
Famous for top quality... extra value... extra power...and rugged, long service!
Look at these superior features!
New departure sealed precision ball bearings!
Built-in overload protector prevents motor burn-outs!
Nylon insulation protects against abrasion and heat better!

CRAFTSMAN Motors are GUARANTEED!
We know of NO other motors of this quality selling at such low prices! Built-in condenser permits starting loads 50% greater than split-phase motors of same capacity. Operate in any position; easily reversed. Off-on switch in base: double-end shaft, Guaranteed! We will repair or replace without charge any CRAFTSMAN motor showing defects in materials or workmanship within one year. See these motors at your SEARS Retail Store TODAY!

* Prices slightly higher south of the Ohio and west of the Mississippi Rivers.

CRAFTSMAN and DUNLAP Tools by SEARS, ROEBUCK and CO.
Famous for fine quality... precision performance... low price!
was natural. Here, chemists knew that the resin's hardness and durability would be a boon to automobile, refrigerator and washing-machine manufacturers. Assembly lines always slowed down in the paint driers because it took 50 minutes to get a good baked-enamel finish.

But how to turn thick formaldehyde into a thin film that could be added to enamel, sprayed from a paint gun and baked quickly into a hard, durable finish? More than 500 formulations were tried and discarded before tedious trial and error produced results. Bentyl alcohol turned the trick. Ultimately, melamine resin was found to mix readily in surface coatings.

Auto manufacturers were dubious, recalling what other synthetic resins had done to durability. Cautiously they tested a five-percent dose of the new compound in their precious enamels, and speeded up the driers. Not only did the paint not wrinkle, but it was harder, glossier. They upped the dose (a disastrous process with previous resins) to about 10 percent. Drying time dropped in half and no wrinkles.

Newest application of the wonder plastic is in textiles. Recently, John Derrig, a young chemist at Cyanamid's Bound Brook, N.J., plant, earned himself a neighborhood reputation as an "eccentric." For weeks he walked around in cotton pants, one leg smoothly creased, the other looking like a rumpled dust cloth. His two youngsters were allowed to run around in new clothes, slopping through mud, climbing trees, sliding down dirt and rock embankments. The pay-off came when neighbors caught him squirting water from a hose all over his wife, who was fitted out in a tulle gown. "They thought I had bats," he said.

The chemist, of course, was home-testing fabrics treated with melamine resin. The queer-looking pants had one leg treated, the other untreated.

Melamine resin gets down into the fibers, makes them resilient and "freezes" them to size. Hence, there can be no shrinkage. Oddly, it gives cotton the "feel" of soft wool. Wool treated with it sheds water and won't shrink. Men's summer suits treated with it retain their original "porosity," are cooler and won't wrinkle. In all the treated cloths, the water resistance is amazing.

Where will it end? Not here. New products are in the test tubes. A baked-in resin to make fabrics fire-resistant will appear soon. In Cyanamid's paper division, chemists are at work on a development that, because of melamine's odd electrical quality, may see hardwood pulp used for paper.

Plastics used to be things you could see and touch. Now, it seems, they've gone into hiding, and the possibilities are endless.
AC's patented Insulator—CORALOX—is winning fresh laurels from car, truck and tractor owners, because it eliminates the major causes of spark plug trouble.  

CORALOX is AC's Insulator. It conducts heat 4 times as fast as previous insulators—has 10 times the insulating value at high temperatures—is 3 times as strong—does not attract oxide coating.

That's why AC Spark Plugs perform better at any engine temperature—have greater resistance to fouling—have more scientifically shaped insulator tips—have wider Heat Range per plug.

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New Army Mine Detector

An/PRS-1 is a portable device for detecting metallic and non-metallic objects. Available with or without battery. Special price $26.40 with battery, $17.50 without battery. For use in detecting mines and unexploded ordnance.

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Rear Engine Tractor

Makes small acres big. Wide selection of implements—plows, planters, cultivators, mowers, etc. Earn a tidy income growing vegetables, flowers, fruit, nursery stock, farm crops, and doing work for neighbors. Powerful rear engine gives clear vision, boosts traction. Consumes only 2 to 3 quarts of fuel per hour. Four speeds. It’s fun to run! Send coupon for free driving trial and literature.

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I’m interested in:

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New York Shakes Off Its Bonds

(Continued from page 77)

tip, then plunge beneath the East River and roll out in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn. Eventually, of course, he can keep right on scooting along the rim of Brooklyn, soar across the Narrows Bridge and strike south toward Washington, having saved about 13 miles and at least one hour’s time.

Not one, but actually two tunnels 45 feet apart, center to center, lie beneath the river. Each tube, 31 feet in diameter, carries two lanes of traffic along a 21-foot 4-inch roadway. About $80,000,000 is sunk beneath the river forever, but East Coast motorists say it is worth every penny.

More than 10 years’ time (the tunnel was held up by the war) and 13,000,000 man-hours of labor have been expended in sinking the tubes. Since the first excavator bit into the ground, some 1,010,000 cubic yards of material have been hauled away.

Engineers in Manhattan started to blast their way south through rock, while their brothers across the way were tunneling north from Brooklyn through mud and silt. On September 16, 1948, sand hogs “holed through” to complete the excavation of the link. At its deepest point the roadway is 115 feet below mean high water. Two thirds of the tunnel was bored through rock, one third through soft ground.

Compressed air is the only shield between sand hogs and death as they tunnel through mud, clay and sand. They use a steel sleeve powered by hydraulic jacks to bite through the slime. The sleeve fits around the outside of the tube, while the unexcavated material at the working end of the tunnel is jammed by a temporary wooden plug. With tremendous force the sleeve makes a 32-inch leap through the muck beyond the barricade. Then the barricade is taken down from top to bottom one plank at a time, and the mud beyond is shoveled out by hand while compressed air holds back the water. A cast-iron lining then is fitted around the three-foot excavation. This leap completed, the men rebuild the barricade and cock the sleeve for another bite.

Each tube is lined with cast-iron rings which have stiffening flanges up to 14 inches thick. A ring is installed in 3000-pound segments which are shoved into their proper place by a huge erecting arm, mounted so it pivots directly in the center of the tube. Then a concrete lining is poured inside the tunnel to protect the metal tube and to provide a convenient surface for installing the roadway and other interior details.

(Continued to page 250)
GET THIS 1950 CAR ENGINE PROTECTION

the new MARVEL INVERSE OILER

FOR CONSTANT UPPER CYLINDER LUBRICATION

Here's the famous auxiliary lubricating oil system—in a sensational new, low cost, 1 Quart size—that meters MARVEL Mystery Oil to critical upper cylinder engine parts precisely in accordance with the demands of your engine under load. This new, compact OILER, with visible oil supply, functions on the same exclusive MARVEL principle— inversely to manifold vacuum—retarding feed when throttle is closed or at engine idle. You'll keep ring, piston and valve wear down and performance way UP with the MARVEL INVERSE OILER on your car.

MARVEL MYSTERY OIL

Learn about MARVEL Mystery Oil too—the nationally recognized leader among oil improving additives. Added to your regular motor oil, it shields vital parts from excessive frictional wear with its great film strength—produces a slow idle, faster engine pick-up and an even power pull.

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Handle hot things with safety. Wear Industrial's famous 210 asbestos gloves. Made of close woven 2½ lb. Underwriters Grade cloth that resists burning. Big roomy cut, stay and comfortable. One piece construction with no seams at wrist or working edges to burn or pull out. Furnished lined or unlined. Almost 40 years experience designed and made these dependable gloves. Many styles. Write for prices and catalog.

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Smooth Sailing
with Old Town

ALL HANDS from new sailor to old salt will take to Old Town's swift-paced lapstrake sailboat. She's 13½ feet long, with 90 square feet of sail. An ample beam assures stability. Built by Down-Easters, easy to handle. Solid deck, full-length decking. Inexpensive upkeep.

FREE CATALOG gives the facts on the sturdy lapstrake sailboat. Also shows canoes, outboard boats, dinghies, rowboats.

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SAY YOU SAW IT IN POPULAR MECHANICS

MAY 1950
Ventilating a tunnel the length of the Brooklyn-Battery tube is a real challenge. About 4,200,000 cubic feet of fresh air are puffed into the tunnel every minute when the tubes are carrying rush-hour loads. If air were whiffed longitudinally through the tunnel at this rate, it would blow like a gale to make the motorist uncomfortable and the tunnel dangerous because of the fire and accident hazard.

Because the circular tube is sealed off at the bottom by the roadway and the top by the ceiling, there remain two segments available for ventilation. Air under slight pressure is blown longitudinally beneath the roadway. It then drifts up through flues spaced along the roadway at 10 or 15-foot intervals, and is drawn off through ports in the ceiling to whip along the tube again through the exhaust duct. Result: fresh air, no noise, no fire hazard and a complete change of air every 1½ minutes.

Three buildings on the surface and one underground house the ventilation equipment, including the eight-foot centrifugal fans. One of these buildings is on an artificial island dipped up from the edge of Governor's Island—a brand new landmark in New York Harbor.

Two continuous bands of glowing fluorescent tubes on each side cast light into the tunnel. At the incoming ends, the light is brighter during daylight hours than anywhere else in the tunnel, so drivers won't be suddenly blinded by darkness as they enter the portals. There's a fire hydrant every 125 feet and catwalk in each tube for the use of traffic cops. A building near each portal provides space for maintenance equipment, offices, crash trucks, fire engines and other emergency equipment.

During peak periods 3000 cars can "bore" through the tunnel in each direction each hour. Engineers figure the tube's annual capacity is around 16,000,000 vehicles.

With the tunnel completed, a bridge across the Narrows authorized and improvements already under way on New York's magnificent parkways, city officials feel it won't be long until they have conquered the waterways that have made their metropolis the crossroads of the world, yet have continually befuddled the poor motorist.

**Tinning Paint**

No preheating of the metal or use of acid core solder is needed when a newly developed tinning paint is used. It is brushed on flat or upright surfaces and heated with a torch.
Make Garden Masonry for Spare-Time Profits

Millions of homes can use these Ornamental products — urns, vases, flower boxes, bird baths, lawn seats, flagstones, etc. Easily made of sand and cement. Permanently glazed in a range of smart colors. Distinctive — attractive — quick selling.

Eye-Appeal Makes for Cash-and-Carry Sales

Selling prices allow 200% to 300% mark-up on basic costs. Only a small investment needed for supply of molds. Easily set up in shed or garage. Write immediately for catalogue OM and price list.

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Easier to Wash Windows, Paint, Putty and Repair with Windostep!

No ladders! Strong! Tested, holds 1000 lbs. Weighs only 12 lbs! Placed from inside — locked into position by your own weight. Steel safety guard.

GUARANTEED OR MONEY BACK
Circular On Request
9.85 (Plus C.O.D. & P.P. or $10.50 Prepaid)

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WITH PRECISION TRANSMISSION
RIDING AND WALKING MODELS TO DO MORE JOBS AT LESS COST!

New economical '50 line with extra features! Riding and walking models, 2 to 4 HP. For spring planting and dozens of other year-round jobs. Complete gear drive with reverse, no neat belts or chains. New reduced prices — easy terms — $188 to $440 with cultivator and equipment lift. Get benefits of 25 years experience.

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THE PERFECT BASS BAIT!

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For a new fishing thrill, plunk this perfect fish-getting combination into the weeds where the BIG ones lie. The special flared guard brushes the weeds aside, yet won't interfere with the strike. Perfect weight for bullet-like casts. Pork Frog gives irresistible action.

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SILVER MINNOW TRIPLE HOOK
Flash and action! Interchangeable bucktail trailers. Weedless or non-weedless.

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For fresh or salt water. Heavy chromium plated.

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Replaceable hook and weed guard. For salt or fresh water. Four sizes.

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Build it Yourself — It's EASY
Everyone loves to cook and eat outdoors. For a fireplace that costs less and works right, just fit masonry to this Model 0F-28, 21" high, 26" long, 13½" wide. See your dealer or order direct. Send money order or check.

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Be a Wizard with Wood

It's easy to do professional work at home! Here are magical products to aid you—reflecting the experience of United States Plywood Corporation and proven by years of satisfaction.

Strongest Wood Glue Ever Made
To make things or fix things, use Weldwood Glue for all wood-to-wood bonds. Makes joints stronger than the wood itself. Mixes easily with water. Stain-free, rot-proof... highly water-resistant! 15¢, 35¢, 65¢, 95¢ and larger sizes.

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A MUST for Finishing Fir Plywood
Tame that wild grain with FIRZITE. It tight-seals the pores... virtually prevents grain rise or checking... readies the surface satin-smooth for paint, stain or enamel. (For blond, pickled, wiped or tinted effects use White Firzite).

FIRZITE

Newer than Shellac or Varnish
For "natural wood" finishes on furniture or woodwork, there's nothing like Satinlac. Brings out the natural grain and color beauty of any plywood or solid wood. Avoids that "built-up" look, and will never turn yellow or darken with age. "Water-white," easy to brush or spray, dries ready for next coat in 2 or 3 hours.

Satinlac

Pints, Quarts, Gallon

Ask for Weldwood Glue, Firzite and Satinlac at hardware, paint or lumber dealers.

Send post card for interesting glue and finishing leaflets.

UNITED STATES PLYWOOD CORPORATION
Dept. 52, 55 West 44th St. • New York 18, N.Y.

Nine Lives for Oil
(Continued from page 150)

Since planes are not always in New York when they need oil, only about 20 percent of the lube oil used in their domestic flights goes back to work, but they expect this figure to go up after they move their re-refinery to American's new maintenance center at Tulsa. As for quality, they see no difference between the new and the old, but pricewise the spread is impressive. They pay about 40 cents a gallon for new oil; re-refining costs 15 cents a gallon.

In the early days of bus-fleet operation, disposal of used oil without creating a nuisance got to be a problem. R. A. L. Bogan, vice-president of the Greyhound Corporation, looked into re-refining and concluded that they were killing a goose which could lay golden eggs. So, in the early '30s, Greyhound set up small 30-gallon plants in their garages at strategic points all the way from Boston to San Francisco. Bogan found that they could recondition oil for about half what they paid for new oil, that the rebuilt oil was as clean or cleaner than new oil and that in all other essentials it was as good as or better than the virgin product. Since then, big commercial re-refiners who are better equipped to do the job have sprung up in many large cities, so Greyhound lets out its washing. After a 10,000-mile hitch in its bus engines, the oil goes to the re-refiner, is separately reconditioned and goes back into the engines for another 10,000 miles. Although much new oil is added between changes to make up losses, there is some oil in Greyhound buses that has been lubricating pistons for 200,000 miles. The fleet is now re-refining about 120,000 gallons of oil a year.

In the last decade, railroads, factories, taxicab companies and bus fleets by the thousand have turned to used oil, which has been cleansed and reconditioned by various methods. Some buy it outright from the big re-refiners; some send their drainings to the cleaners so they get their own oil back and some do their own "washing" in small, 10-gallon stills.

You can dip into their reports and come up with a double handful of enthusiastic endorsements. The Diamond Cab Company of Long Beach, Calif., which launders its own oil, once bought 200 gallons of new oil a week. Now they reclaim 150 gallons at a cost of 10 cents a gallon, reducing the weekly purchase of new oil to 50 gallons. Savings: About $100 a week. The North-east Oklahoma Railroad Company began re-refining the old oil from its diesel locomotives and busses nine years ago and since (Continued to page 254)
NEW!

Klean-Strip Remover Peels Off Paint

Throw away messy, dangerous solvents! Klean-Strip, the new-type remover, needs no after-wash, will neither burn nor explode. Just apply with brush, or spray gun... then slide off the loose film. That’s all there is to it!

Klean-Strip actually breaks the bond between wood or metal and the finish you want to remove. Peels off any paint, enamel, varnish, synthetic or lacquer. Works fast, leaves the surface clean, smooth and dry, ready for a perfect refinish job.

The next time you buy paint, get a can of Klean-Strip, too! Available at better paint, hardware, and department stores everywhere.

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Clean - No-Wash
Non-Inflammable

Professional Quality
Snap-on
MIDGET PLIER SET
FOR JOBS AROUND CAR, HOME, CAMP

The 4½" Needle Nose reaches into tight places... the 4½" Side Cutter cuts wires, fish hooks, pins... the 4½" Gripper is a general utility plier. All beautifully chrome-plated and fully guaranteed. In fine leatherette kit...

Standard Size PL-30K Plier Kit $10.30

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$6.65

PLM-30K Plier Kit at $6.65

Add Local Sales Tax

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then has saved more than 45,000 gallons at a cost of 11 cents a gallon.

Among Eastern users are the Pennsylvania, New York Central, Boston and Maine and Long Island Railroads and the Public Service Company of New Jersey. These firms get their rebuilt oil from Walter Ray's Triplex Oil Refining Company.

Most of the re-refiners are small businessmen who saw wasted wealth in filling-station pits and seized the chance for a pioneer venture. In Lyons, Ill., west of Chicago, stands the trim modern plant of the Motor Oils Refining Company, set up 10 years ago by Herbert C. Goetsch. Last year, he turned out nearly 1,000,000 gallons which his customers find as good or better than new oil. He does many "custom jobs" for industries, railroads, truck and bus companies, collecting their dirty oil, treating it separately and returning it. The more it is re-refined, he reports, the cleaner it gets and the higher the yield from the used oil. He launders some high-priced industrial oils for one third of their original cost. With a fleet of six tank trucks, Goetsch collects sump oil from about 250 Chicago filling stations and garages and produces a re-refined lubricant which is sold for around 25 cents a quart in a number of Chicago filling stations. This market is limited, says Goetsch, by the popular prejudice against oil that has once been used. If motorists could be convinced, he says, that nothing matters but the tested quality of the oil, he could convert into good motor oil great quantities of drainings which are now being wastefully burned or otherwise jettisoned.

On the bank of the Potomac in Arlington, Va., is the re-refining plant of V. T. Worthington, a native of Utah who once worked on refinery-construction jobs in the West. Later, he took a job in the Department of Commerce and there received so many queries about re-refined oil that he had to study the subject. When he found that oil does not wear out and that used oil can be made into a superior product, he decided that he had found his calling. He gave himself lessons by operating small five-gallon portable units, and then built a small plant of his own design. After two enlargements, he constructed his present plant, which uses a new method involving a tall vacuum fractionating tower and will handle about 9000 gallons a day. Worthington collects sump oil from Washington, Baltimore and Richmond and turns it into a high-grade lubricant.

Like other re-refiners, he is irked by the fact that while he can produce lube of the highest quality, which he can sell at a

(Continued to page 256)
**Cushman Motor Scooters**

*Leads All Ways*


**FREE!**

See your Cushman dealer. Or rush card for Freebook.

Rider Agent Plan Available

CUSHMAN MOTOR WORKS, Dept. M5, Lincoln, Nebr.

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**SHAW "DU-ALL" and "PEPPY PAL" GARDEN TRACTORS**

These sturdy walking and riding tractors ideal for dozens of uses around the farm, orchard, garden, golf course, estate and poultry farm.

**DO DOZENS OF JOBS**

Shaw Du-All or Peppy-Pal tractors do many jobs quickly and easily. Plow, cultivate, harrow, mow, disk, bulldoze, spray, grind, haul and saw wood. New uses discovered every day.

**BUILT FOR RUGGED WORK**

Sturdy, extra-strength construction means low upkeep, long life. Patented tool control allows quick shift for crooked rows. Attachments easy to change with improved "Jiffy Hitch."

**CHEAP TO OPERATE**

Operates on a few cents an hour. Soon pays for itself in time and labor-saving plus low initial and operating costs.

**NEW LOW PRICES**

Buy direct or through your dealer! Almost anyone who has a garden can afford a Shaw Du-All or Peppy-Pal. Full year's guarantee.

**RIDING TRACTORS**

Four models, from 1 to 12 H.P., 58 in. wheelbase, 36 in. wide, 24 in. plant clearance. Hand or electric starter. Improved steering device, brakes enclosed in differential housing shaft. Standard hitch for trailor and wagon. Plow, harrow, cultivate, cutter bar, snow plow, bulldozer available.

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An ounce of FULCREUM is worth a pound of ordinary gun and reel oil. Don't put guns away without first protecting them with FULCREUM. Lubricate all reels before use. FULCREUM will not evaporate, gum or get stinging. Lasting lubrication and protection cannot be overestimated.

Big, ounce bottle—$1.00. At dealers—otherwise postpaid. ($1.25 refunded if not beat you ever used.) 6-oz. Economy size for boots and club use—$0.50

FULCREUM OIL CO., 1139-E Liberty, Franklin, Pa.
"Why do it the hard way? Get the new Actionglas!"

- Perfect casts come easy with Actionglas—the solid glass rod with live action!

It has the perfect balance you want... lighter, faster, stronger than any rod you've tried! Moisture can't hurt it—won't rust or take a set!

Your favorite sports store has the new Actionglas. Your choice of lengths from 3'-7" to 6'-1". $8.95 to $25.00

ORCHARD INDUSTRIES, INC., DETROIT, MICH.

Micro Tapered—for strength where you need it, action where you want it!

Actionglas is also available in spinning, trolling and fly rods. Solid steel Actionrods from $3.50 to $23.50

moderate price, he cannot market much of it in such a way that drivers can profit. The chief reason is public prejudice against a "second hand" product—a stigma which limits its sales and relegates it to the bottom of the price ladder. On the other hand, much re-refined oil appears on the market through various channels at top prices, since small businessmen often find life simpler if they don't start price wars with giant competitors. Says Worthington, "I would like to sell re-refined lube as good as 40-cent premium for 25 cents a quart and tell the drivers what they are getting. But this would take a big educational campaign and I can't do it alone."

There are only a few dots on the map where drivers can buy back their cleansed oil economically. There are small processors like the Streeker Oil and Solvent Company of Cincinnati, which re-refines about 275 gallons of oil a day and sells it to drivers and filling stations for half the price of virgin oil. But this is exceptional. Probably 99 drivers out of 100 have no chance to buy their oil back and have never heard that it is worth recovering. Although this salvage of wasted wealth has increased fourfold in the last decade, everyone profits except the private-car owner. He pays for the oil, throws it away after one use and lets those who know its value reap the harvest.

Some of the distrust of reconditioned oil is justified because of the sloppy practice by certain operators in the haphazardly mushrooming industry. Leading re-refiners agree that they need a national association to set standards and teach the public the facts about oil's indestructibility.

Today, less than one tenth of the great river of lube oil is being recaptured and sent back to work. Making allowance for drainings in thinly settled areas where collection might be too costly, the harvest of this wasted national asset would eventually rank in importance with the discovery of a new oil field. For we are dealing, not with a single reuse, but with a repeated cycle of use and reconditioning, until nothing is thrown away but impurities.

During the war, large quantities of lube oil were reconditioned in Sweden, England and Germany. In Sweden, where these plants had been operating for years under government authorization and inspection, wartime motorists who turned in their used oil for re-refining were allowed extra oil above their rationing allowances.

We are now importers of petroleum and our domestic oil reserves are limited. Even if it didn't mean dollars in everyone's pocket, the rich, black river should be harnessed in the interest of national security.
Low-cost, portable woodworking shop!

Prices $195 include motor and switch
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Easy time payments!

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Exclusive Double Radial Action gives you unequalled capacity and more flexibility!

Only 2 movements — instead of the outmoded 3:

Track swings for miter or rip
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Helps you meet rising labor costs and unskilled labor problems with these outstanding economies:
1. Reduces your investment — does the work of many tools.
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5. Steps up day's output — reduces operator fatigue.
6. Reduces waste — accuracy helps eliminate scrap losses and extra finishing operations.
7. Saves floor space — you can use a Delta Multiplex flush against the wall.

Ask your Delta Multiplex dealer for a power demonstration — or see the new sound movie he can show you. Write for new catalog, “Unlimited Applications.”

MAY 1950

POWER TOOL DIVISION
Rockwell Manufacturing Company
802 E. Vienna Ave., Milwaukee 1, Wis.
Mystery Men of the TV Screen

(Continued from page 86)
a rock to be blasted. There was to be a
flash, a big bang and the prop man was to
pull the rock away under the ensuing smoke
screen. The sound man’s cue was the flash
—only the fuse blew out. There was no
flash, bang or smoke. A puzzled audience
simply watched the rock being hauled away
mysteriously by the prop man.

Video boners are not all in the sound
department by any means. Johnny DeMott
once had three “windows” made of resin
wax and sugar candy, so the actor could
take two practice dives through it before
jumping through the third one from the
“sixth floor” on show night. Actually, he
landed on a mat right behind the set. He
did nicely in rehearsal. But when the real
thing was done, he dove through and, in-
stead of lying on the mat, casually stood
up and walked off, forgetting he was still
in full view of bewildered fans.

Every studio has its share of galloping
horrors brought on by video’s still experi-
mental striving for effects. NBC engineers
constructed a clear-plastic water tank into
which Milton Berle was to climb, in his
underwear, to test a fountain pen. Every-
one forgot that studio lights average about
1400 degrees temperature. By the time
Berle climbed in, the water was slightly
under a simmer. Stagehands and page boys
formed a bucket brigade to the water cool-
er, while Berle boiled. He looked like a
well-done lobster when he climbed out.

But nothing can match the NBC blush
that occurred when Lanny Ross was to ap-
pear for an ice show in an 8:50 telecast.
Eight-thirty arrived, and there was Lanny,
sitting on the edge of a barren network of
freeze pipes. “Sorry,” said Lanny, “No ice—
see you later.” This went on until 10:30
while frantic plumbers and studio hands
bustled around trying everything from
prayers to Dry-Ice to make the water con-
geal. They finally succeeded and the show
went on two hours late.

Men like Fred Coe, Johnny DeMott, Al
Ostrander and many others are philoso-
phical about these things, however. “We’ll
never find out what we can do in television
unless we try things,” they’ll tell you.
“We’re still adapting ourselves to the pace
of new shows every week and we seldom
see a script more than four or five days
before it has to be produced.”

They all feel that they’ve only scratched
the surface. “Television,” says Fred, “has
an advantage of visual immediacy over
every medium in existence. As soon as
we’re out of our swaddling clothes, the pos-
sibilities will be endless.”
CLINOMETER
SHOWS DEGREE OF INCLINE
The pocket model acts as a protractor when it swings open. It is graduated in degrees from 0 to 90° in black and white. No. 437...
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Handi-Fly and Bait kit. Plus 6 sizes, Improved metal, in hard case....

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AND HUNDREDS OF OTHER
U.S. BARGAINS
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Invasion Life Belts. Purchased from the Navy—100% guaranteed. Made of heavy rubberized fabric with two independent air chambers for double safety. May be inflated only—or automatically with Sparklet Cartridges. Positive valves retain or release air as desired. Belt is adjustable to all body sizes.

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These belts cost the government many times the low price we are now selling. And remember, they are all brand new and perfect. You'll find hundreds of uses for them. Use them as a life belt when swimming. Use them like an auto inner tube for playing in the water. Lash them to the sides of your canoe as stabilizers. Lash two or more together for a raft. Slip two or three into a cover for an air mattress. You'll find hundreds of other uses for them also.

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MAY 1950

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Over 60,000 better dealers recommend Pennzoil—easy to find at the familiar yellow oval sign. Sound your Z for the genuine.

Trains in the Trackless Arctic

(Continued from page 129)

themselves. Heavy breathing may frost-bite the lungs and result in gangrene. Perspiration freezes clothing as hard as a cake of ice and, unless removed quickly in a warm place, this can cause pneumonia or freezing. The normal shock of a wound concentrates the heat of the body in that area, while the rest of the body freezes.

Speed of freezing is almost incredible. The project engineer was chopping a water hole in the ice one day when the reading was—57 degrees. His pick slipped, fell into the hole and jammed below the water line. As he reached in and pulled it out, ice formed right down his gauntlet.

"Operation Arctic" is not just a matter of battering sled trains across the country willy-nilly. Far in advance of last year's 500-mile test trek, reconnaissance planes scouted the area. Trails were marked out. The country is divided about 50-50 between lakes and dry land or "portage" so the trains must often wait until ice is thick enough to carry the weight of 15 to 18-ton tractors and 10-ton sleds. About 24 inches is considered safe; 40 desirable.

Ahead of the trains, tractors beat the trail. Occasionally, they stop to bulldoze trees which are used to "corduroy" boggy muskeg or to bridge gulleys and streams. Frequently, plows are hooked on front to scrape snow from a frozen lake surface, not only to expose cracks but also because ice will freeze deeper and faster if it's not insulated with a snow blanket.

Across rough portage, men riding advance-guard tractors sometimes "high-road," or pack the trail, by riding back and forth over the soft snow.

Ice on natural waterways is at once a help and hindrance. It is smooth and fast, but treacherous, and a good sled-train man must be an ice expert. "We know," says one veteran, "that sea ice is badly cracked up from the hinging action of tides. Rivers and streams are fine if they're frozen through—but running water beneath may cut thin spots and leave air holes. For safe riding, give us dark blue or black lake ice, laced with tiny "healed" cracks. Good ice pops and booms continually, and when it crackles like popcorn as the vehicles ride over it, we all breathe easily. It's sound as a nut."

The most spectacular horror on lake ice is rarely dangerous. During spring thaw, the ice becomes "candled" or shot through with holes. As the heavy vehicles move over it, their weight presses it down and water geyzers up 20 feet in the air all
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Guild A-2 Sander has the speed that gets the job done fast. Its power relieves operators from "boring down" for efficient cutting. Its lightness and balance insure effortless handling in any position. High speed abrasive belts have grits for wood, composition, plastics, metal, glass. Gives a smooth, straight-grain finish—no swirls, no gouges. Takes off paint and varnish in a jiffy without scraper or messy removers. An easy-to-adjust Bench Stand (extra) converts Guild A-2 Sander into a grinder for tools and knives—also into a machine for squaring, rounding, smoothing butt and mitre joints. See Guild Sander at your hardware or tool supply dealers today—or send in coupon below.

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around. "It's frightening, but harmless," the men explain, "as long as the ice is thick enough."

But the cannon-shot sound of a big contraction crack opening under the train is another matter. Even good lake ice has its hazards. Though 40 inches thick in the center, it may be dangerously thin around the edges. Deceptive shell ice, formed by overflow water that has receded and left an air space underneath, looks smooth but won't support anything. It must be smashed out by tractors so the trains can ride on the shell ice supported by water beneath it.

Cracks are worst of all. Expansion cracks, caused by pressure, sometimes rise 15 feet in the air. They must be mounded and smoothed over.

What happens if this isn't done? "As the tractor straddles the crack," explains a veteran Army trooper, "the ice breaks away in two big triangular-shaped pieces fore and aft of the vehicle. Slowly, the pieces open downward, like a big trap door, and majestically lower the machine into the lake—while the driver jumps. Some record leaps were made last year, and it's one reason we like tractors without enclosed driver seats. After dumping the equipment to Davy Jones, the ice then rises slowly back into place, as though someone had pushed another button—presto, no tractor, and the door is shut!"

This happened to one train in 40 feet of water when the mercury stood at 50 below. There was only one way to retrieve the equipment. While the ice over the drowned tractor was broken away, several men stripped naked, covered themselves with grease, and dove in with grappling hooks! This may seem rough, but it has been done many times by commercial haulers. Actually, the water is much warmer than the air. If it wasn't, it would be frozen.

To avoid such polar-bear-club antics, every sled train has its reconnaissance vehicles, continually scouting the area ahead.

For this work, the Army uses a 12-passenger beetle-bodied half-track with four tired bogey wheels, and skis on the front end for turning. In soft snow, it cuts around like a skittering bug. On ice, a good driver has special techniques to make it swing. The vehicle is speeded toward the turn, skis chattering like machine guns. Then, on the instant of turning, he jerks his foot off the gas, throwing the weight of the vehicle forward and down on the skis. They bite into the ice and around she goes.

Also used for reconnaissance is the snowmobile, which looks like a tin box on tank tracks. Four bogey wheels on each side,
...speaking of the really hot days in JUNE, JULY and AUGUST, my home workshop seems the coolest part of the house.

When the temperature is in the 90's, there's nothing like leisure moments spent in a home workshop to take one's mind off the heat—a relaxing hobby is the "key" to hot weather comfort.

Try it, this year—you need not be an expert. As to what to make—there are many interesting and useful projects in the CRAFTSMAN section of every issue of POPULAR MECHANICS.

No home is complete without the constructive economies offered to the whole family by the ownership of tools. The latest, and best available tools are regularly advertised in POPULAR MECHANICS—you can shop for your needs right in the pages of this issue!

Power tools are particularly suitable to hot weather home workshop activity... a lathe, band or bench saw, etc., require practically no physical effort to operate, yet completely occupy hand, eye and—most important—mind.

However, a word to the wise: If you install a workshop, complete with power tools, now—there will be less broiling on the beach, less idle sitting, sweltering, this summer. It will prove difficult to lure you from what seems the coolest place in the house—your home workshop!

P.S. I would be pleased to hear from you as to your experiences with summertime home workshop activity—why not write? Simply mark the envelope: Room 512.

JIM

POPULAR MECHANICS, read by 3,528,000 home workshop fans, SUMMER and WINTER

200 EAST ONTARIO STREET, CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS
powered by a V-8 engine, spin the huge tracks and send the Penguin shooting over snow, ice, slush, mud, muskeg and rocks as though they weren't there.

On steep, slippery slopes where even the heavily grousered tracks of the big engines slip under the weight of the trains, the boys use two tractors and "walk" them up the hill. While one holds the load, the second will let out cable and move ahead to a firm footing, then winch the whole works up to it. While this one holds the load, the other moves ahead and repeats the process.

In crossing cracks, to avoid the extra ground pressure of the thumping, pounding tracks, a second tractor will move out ahead and drag the whole train across with the winch.

Little of the new arctic equipment broke down completely last year. But if it had, the T.C. Board had an answer for that, too. The traveling Army carried one of the most compact portable shelters ever devised. Its light, wooden frame pieces, forming a long, parabolic structure, were covered with eight-foot glass-fiber blankets, all of which zipped together to form a snug shelter 20 by 64 feet. A 400,000 BTU-per-hour oil-fired heater kept the shelter snug despite whipping gales and temperatures cold enough to frost your tonsils. That's pretty good when you consider the ferocity of arctic gales. On one particular night, when the wind rose to a howling 70 miles per hour, the shelter began to creep over the snow. It moved a good six inches before the men put a couple of 18-ton tractors against the inside of the windward wall. The shelter quit sliding almost immediately.

Late in April when the "road" Army returned to the base rail camp, they had chalked up a hatful of experiences. Some 30 of them had charged 2000 miles across arctic snow with 11 power vehicles and 35 sleds. They returned completely intact—not without some grief, of course. Twice, tractors had gone through ice, one carrying two sleds and a wanigan with it. But all had been successfully winched out. Sleds overturned, and once a wanigan went over, breaking the hand of a man riding on the roof. Since all trains carried a transmitter in one wanigan, word was sent "outside" and a Bombardier picked up the injured fellow within a week. Meanwhile, his broken bones had been beautifully set by the chief engineer, who became known as "Doc"—and later lived up to it when he fended off a case of appendicitis for several days until a plane could make a pick-up. He did it by applying ice packs which, he says, "were awfully easy to keep filled with fresh ice."

(Continued to page 266)
**BE A RIDER-DEALER**

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In many communities—and yours may be one of them—there is an opening for a Servi-Cycle Rider-Dealer. You can make profitable sales simply by riding your Servi-Cycle to work and showing it to your friends. A brand-new demonstration machine will cost you less than $200, delivered, U.S. Tax Paid—ready to ride, ready to make sales. Write today for complete specifications, and full information about our liberal Rider-Dealer Plan. If you are established in business and would like to sell Servi-Cycle, write on your letterhead for our Distributor Plan.

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MAY 1950

265
The frigidity caused a couple of weird accidents, the most unique when a man merely raised his arm and cracked a clavicle. It later developed that the bone had been broken before and was poorly mended. But why the sub-zero temperature made it break again, no one knows.

Back at base camp, the boys found that the railroaders had had their troubles, too, but without ill effects. Steam lines froze, batteries died, tires cracked and blew—but there were plenty of replacements. And the men used their ingenuity. When one of the steam-heated sewer lines froze, they loosened it up with an acetylene torch.

"The blowtorch," says the chief engineer, "turned out to be our most useful tool. You could make it broil a steak. We used it constantly to heat stew in the open. Simply tilt it under the pot and apply the burner. Some stew! Everything went in those pots—canned fruit, chocolate, meat, potatoes, frozen asparagus. It tasted like a rubber boot, but it was nourishing."

"That blowtorch heated frozen manifolds on engines. It warmed tools so they wouldn't freeze to our skin. It thawed ice crystals in the fuel lines every morning, and melted chunks of ice that tried to jam the engine tracks, winch gears and all moving metal parts."

With the help of the blowtorch, this six-foot man, with a voice like a foghorn, feels that the Arctic can't stop any American Army with know-how. "It's far from barren," he points out. "A man can live off the country if he knows that it's safe to take off his wet clothes and sleep raw in a good sleeping bag, to hunt for edible reindeer lichen under the snow, and fish through the ice for 32-pound lake trout which abound up there."

As you read this the Arctic Army has just returned from the 1950 trek. This year they had with them a new speedy cargo carrier. This vehicle is a modification of the World War II half-track, used by the Army for tank-destroyer units. The conventional track has been widened greatly to reduce ground pressure. Dual wheels in front are covered with contraction plates which are secured to the wheel between the tires. The cargo carrier can tote up to 6000 pounds. It will skim over the snow and ice at speeds far faster than the tractors.

With such ingenious modifications on standard equipment, and with the men at the drawing boards of the T. C. Board in New York Port of Embarkation devising new and better methods and equipment every year, we may soon be seeing some arctic automotive equipment that will beat anything on skis, skids or endless tracks which we have today.
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THE FAMOUS DREMEL MODEL "A" SANDER

Dremel's new Model 2000 gives you the finest finish sanding money can buy. For polishing too, this new machine is a superb performer. And now it's yours at the remarkably low price of only $24.50.

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17 New models. Improved design: shiftable, outboards, inboards, sailboats. Trogon racers, cruisers, 8 to 16 ft., exclusive features. Preassembled trugs. Triple keel construction, Trogon bottom, full length spray rail, wide beam, simplified construction, easy to build. World's best boat buy! Send 35¢ for new 1950 literature, or send 81.00 for literature, plus booklet "Plywood Boats."

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1950 Catalog—over 100 modern designs by famous naval architects. Cruisers, inboards, outboards, sailboats, 6 to 36 ft. Plywood—Steel—Blank. Construction plans, full-size patterns. Send 35¢ for catalog and helpful booklet on "Boat Building."

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Department P

NEW SAGINAW BALL-BEARING BUMPER JACK

- SAFEST, STURDIEST BUMPER JACK EVER BUILT!
- PRECISION STEEL TUBULAR SHAFT—RIGIDLY ATTACHED BASE.
- SAME PRINCIPLE OPERATES AIRPLANE WING FLAPS.
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Name
Address

Caltech Super Greenhouse

(Continued from page 100)

In addition to the other growing rooms the building contains a fog and rain room, a wind tunnel in which plants may be subjected to breezes up to 20 miles per hour, a gas room in which the effects of smoke or other atmospheric conditions on a plant may be studied, and a radioactivity room for conducting tracer experiments.

The laboratory's basic purpose is for studying the effects of climatic factors on the growth and development of plants. Optimum growing conditions for various species will be sought, as well as any changes that occur when particular plants are moved from their native environments to completely different climatic conditions.

Such effects can be measured only in the complete absence of any other conditions that might influence growth, and so elaborate precautions are taken to guard against plant diseases or pests. Doctor Went explains that an accidental infestation of a few plants might cost $10,000 in resterilizing the laboratory, lost operating time and lost research time. As completely as possible the entire laboratory building is maintained in a sterile condition.

Insectproofing includes the use of springs to hold the glass greenhouse panes firmly against their aluminum supports, glass-wool plugs in all drainage holes that lead outside, and the sealing of all small holes and cracks. Windows are not intended to be opened but they are guarded nevertheless with fine-mesh wire screens. A slight positive atmospheric pressure is maintained constantly so that a breeze would blow outward in case a window should be opened. All ordinary air vents are covered with fine screen and the building has been ant and rodentproofed. Air enters the building through a single main air intake and is filtered and then sterilized.

As soon as the laboratory was built and equipped, it was sealed and thoroughly fumigated. Since then nothing has entered the building until after it has gone through a sterilizing treatment.

The tomatoes, peas and other experimental plants that are used are grown in trays or pots filled with sterile sand or gravel. They are watered by hand from overhead hoses and they are fed a standard nutrient solution that is drawn from a faucet in each room. Other nutrient solutions, each deficient in a certain mineral, are also available.

Called phytootron or plant machine, the laboratory is intended to fulfill the same function in the plant sciences as does the cyclotron in physics.
'Mister, You're a Genius!'

"A MATTER OF MINUTES AND YOU'VE GOT HER RUNNING LIKE NEW!" I TOLD THE MECHANIC.

"THAT'S EASY," HE REPLIED. "WHEN YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT PARTS, THERE'S NOTHING TO IT."

"RIGHT PARTS?" SAID I. "YES, GENUINE FORD PARTS," HE CONTINUED. "THEY'RE MADE RIGHT TO FIT RIGHT TO LAST LONGER."

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MAY 1950 269
The Impact of the Hydrogen Bomb

(Continued from page 97)

will never deliberately attack another nation. This fact is known to our potential opponents and they have taken, and will continue to take, advantage of it. It assures them that they will always have the choice of war or peace, and that if they choose war, they will have the choice of when, where and how it will be initiated. Our reluctance to protect our borders against aliens, no matter how undesirable they may be, greatly increases our vulnerability to saboteurs. And so does our apparent unwillingness, despite the wishes of the vast majority of our citizens, to drive communists and their sympathizers out of public and industrial life. Atomic-bomb parts could be brought in by enemy agents and assembled in spots most dangerous to us. It might be possible, likewise, for hydrogen-bomb parts to be brought in and assembled. Certainly, the assembled bombs, either atomic or hydrogen, could be brought into our harbors in enemy merchant ships and exploded without warning. Atomic or hydrogen bombs, hidden in our cities, could either be exploded without warning, or an ultimatum, disclosing their presence and demanding our complete and immediate surrender, could be issued.

The claim has been made publicly, by certain scientists, that the use of the hydrogen bomb could destroy all life on this planet, and by others that it could destroy the earth itself. I believe that in making these statements, these men were speaking of possibilities and extremely remote ones at that, rather than of probabilities. Personally, I am not alarmed by such gloomy prognostications.

Man's knowledge is constantly increasing. This advance in knowledge will soon lead, if it has not already done so, to weapons so terrible that no sane government would willingly plunge a nation into war when such weapons might be used against her. No one wants to touch a match to a powder keg to kill an enemy when such action will destroy himself as well.

The first half of the 20th century has seen war change from being essentially limited to combat on the field of battle between military forces in uniform. We have seen the beginnings of modern total warfare. We would be closing our eyes to the inevitable if we did not realize that in future wars, if we are so unfortunate as to have them, all elements of the populations of the nations involved will be precipitated into the struggle. Our military strength has become so increasingly dependent upon

(Continued to page 272)
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industrial strength that everyone, regardless of age or sex, will become in effect a part of the war effort. No one who has read the news accounts of the recent trials behind the iron curtain, or of our troubles in Berlin, or of the Russian slave camps, can have any doubt that the Soviet leaders would do anything they thought might be to their advantage. Moreover, I believe that by now, the average American has become convinced that Russia cannot be depended upon to keep any promise. As long as a nation so ruthless and so opportunistic as the Soviet Union is at large in the international community, we can place little faith in the idealistic theories of many of the politicians of the peace-loving nations of the world. Let us borrow some, but not too much, of Russia's own realism and view the present situation as it is, not as we would like it to be. If we do this, we will not depend upon unenforceable agreements with the Soviets but upon ourselves, upon our military strength, upon our industrial strength and upon the strength of our American way of life.

The development of the atomic bomb has already had a profound influence upon the military thinking; much more so than appears on the surface to the casual reader. The development of a hydrogen bomb will carry this effect still further.

Battleships are no longer the backbone of our Navy. Seacoast defense guns are being abandoned. Questions are being raised as to the value of any role to be played by enormous ground forces.

I do not believe that it would be sound for us to rely solely on the hydrogen bomb, even when we discover that we can make it, nor upon the atomic bomb. We must depend upon a well-balanced national military establishment. We must have air strength sufficient to deliver these super bombs upon the desired strategic targets, no matter where they may be located. We must have ground and sea strength sufficient to seize and hold any bases essential to the efficient performance of the bomb-carrying airplanes. Above all, we must realize that our thinking may be wrong. The hydrogen bomb and the atomic bomb may not be able to bring us through to victory and peace. To insure this, we must maintain other military strength.

We must remember that if Russia attacks us, and we are defeated, our country, our ideals and our people will never have a chance to rise again. With that possible fate confronting us, we must not permit ourselves to become careless. Perhaps it is time to recall the words of the father of our country when he said: "Let none but Americans be on guard tonight."
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- 2 oz. Alnico Magnets, 3 to 10 lbs., $1.50 each
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EAGLE FOLDING RULES

69c to $1.25

An assortment for every purse and purpose... and every member of every family don't just ask for a rule. Ask for an Eagle rule.

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POPULAR MECHANICS

282
COMPLETE LOCKSMITH SHOP

NEW POPULAR STANDARD EQUIPMENT

START YOUR SHOP NOW! AT HOME, GARAGE, BASEMENT, OR RENT A SMALL STORE, OR ADD A KEY DEPARTMENT TO YOUR PRESENT BUSINESS

1. Precision key machine complete
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3. 500 Assorted 4-pin house keys
4. Pair of key display boards with 100 hooks
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NOW 4 BEAUTIFUL COLORS

10 HP AT 3400 RPM! Thrill to 50 mph cruising—faster pickup than a car. AUTOMATIC CLUTCH with Powermatic Drive gives sensational per-
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Burns Refuse Safely

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MAY 1950

283
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$4.00 Worth of Sand & Cement produces this Attractive Fireplace.

Sells on Sight from $60. to $80. Easy to start your own Profitable Business.

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MAY 1950

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285
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America's Outstanding Dollar ($1) Pipe

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MAY 1950 287
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BILT-RITE BARGAINS on BALL-BEARING WHEELS
(For ½-inch Axles)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Price per Wheel</th>
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<td>8 x 1.25</td>
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<td>14 x 2.50</td>
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<td>18 x 3.60</td>
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For 4½-inch Axles

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<td>10 x 2.75</td>
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Bilt-Rite Guarantee
No better wheels are made regardless of price; 10 day return privilege.

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Attach to your garden hose. Wash your car in 5 minutes. Keep yourself dry. Rinses as it washes—leaves no streaks or scratches. It's not a gadget. Money back guarantee.

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RED HOT ITEMS

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PLANS SHOW YOU HOW . . . . . . . . . . . . $1.50

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FROM IDLE . . . . 100 MPH.

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DIAMOND SCRIBER!

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Pumps 1800 GPH 300 gal. 30" high, use ½ to ½ HP $6.50
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AMAZING GENERAL BLOCK MACHINE
CAPACITY 1000 BLOCKS PER DAY
Only $199 LESS MOTOR F.O.B. PLANT
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DEPT. F-B, 307 HUNTER ST. GLOUCESTER, N. J.

MAY 1950

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HIGH SPEED DRILLS

All New, Fractional & Numbered One, Val. $15, Naturally known brand. 1/2”, each $3.25...

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ELECTRIC BELLS—Vibrating type, high pitch. 115 V., 60 Cycle. Ideal for use indoors or outdoors—on ranches, for schools, plant installations, as signal systems, burglar alarm systems, etc. Nationally known Mfr. All New in orig. Bags. Solid Copper & 8” Vane Wh. 8 lbs. Cont. cost about $7.10. Close out at...

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Converts any motor, drill press, electric drill, electric fan (10 inch or larger) into a handy rotary tool

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Make</th>
<th>Motors</th>
<th>Trans</th>
<th>Rear Ends</th>
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<tr>
<td>'37-38</td>
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