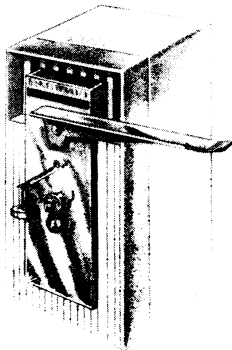


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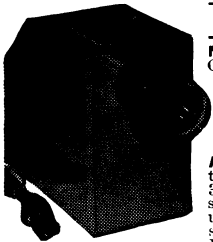
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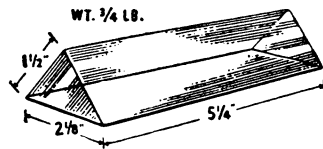
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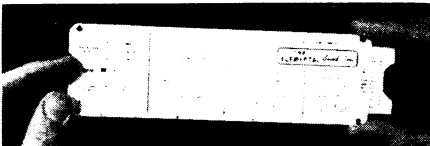
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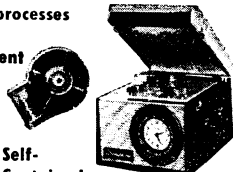


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AGRICULTURE

Plastic Drains Take Water and Salt From Soil

EXCESS water and crop-damaging salt accumulations can be drained from irrigated soil by the use of mole drains with vinyl plastic liners, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported.

On one experimental area near Logan, Utah, the outflow from each of five such drains 300 feet long, 22 inches deep and three inches in diameter, was said to be about two and a half gallons of water a minute. The drains also removed 117 pounds of salt a day from the one-and-a-half acre plot. Water drained into a ditch at the edge of the test area contained ten times as much salt as water applied, the USDA reported.

Science News Letter, January 9, 1960

ENGINEERING

Vibrationless Hammer Neglected Invention

ANOTHER instance of American priority over Russian technology has come to light, except that United States ingenuity made the discovery but industry has not yet picked it up.

It is a vibrationless pneumatic hammer suitable for riveting and pavement breakers that will not shake the stuffings out of the operator and cause vibration sickness, characterized by loss of hearing, vision, blood vessel spasms and bone and joint damage.

Approximately a decade ago the Armour Research Foundation of the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, developed a vibrationless pneumatic hammer principle that could be applied to commercial vibration tools. But there were no commercial takers interested in applying it to pneumatic reciprocating tools.

Russians are concerned, according to translated reports, about the danger of vibration and called for study on its effects.

Now the Armour Research Foundation engineers are wondering if the Russians will use the results of their early development work before demand for major pneumatic tool design improvements to protect workers' health causes U. S. manufacturers to take the financial risk necessary to apply them.

Science News Letter, January 9, 1960

Questions

ARCHAEOLOGY—How did some ancient wine makers probably keep their wine from spoiling? p. 20.

ASTRONOMY—What is the closest estimate of the surface temperature of Venus? p. 19.

PUBLIC HEALTH—How many persons are estimated to suffer from arthritis and rheumatic diseases? p. 27.

Photographs: Cover, Westinghouse Electric Corporation; p. 19, International Telephone and Telegraph Corp.; p. 21, Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd.; p. 23, General Electric Company; p. 26, National Foundation; p. 32, W. R. Grace & Co.