

GRIST

VOL. 14 / NO. 3

MAY / JUNE 1970

SUBSCRIBERS TELL IT LIKE IT IS

Our survey results on the Park Practice Program are still coming in, far surpassing the expected twenty percent. Thank you for your prompt replies and your many thoughtful suggestions for making the program more useful.

We will have a complete report on the results in a future issue of Grist, soon after this information is analyzed.

WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT YOU?

To paraphrase an old song—Nothing! Grist is based on audience participation. We need your ideas, suggestions and plans—anything that might be useful to someone in the parks.

Don't worry about how it is written. Just list the purpose of your suggestion, the steps involved and materials needed, and any other necessary information. Drawings and photos are very helpful—but not absolutely necessary.

May we hear from you soon?



Got any ideas for GRIST?

SAVING ON BATTERIES

One way to save on flashlight batteries is to replace only the bottom battery when the light starts to get dim, according to Ed Fahey, of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. He also says that reversing the battery next to the bulb when you are not using the flashlight will also prolong the life of the batteries.

GARBAGE CAN HOLDER

LaPine State Recreation Area in central Oregon has two problems common to many parks. Located on the edge of a desert, they have a serious wind problem and, because of their relative remoteness, an animal problem as well. As a result, their garbage cans are easily knocked over by the wind and pilfered by animals.

Park Manager Ion Herring and Park Ranger Donald J. Webb have collaborated on a very efficient and inexpensive solution to their problems. They have devised a swivel action lid holder which is animal-

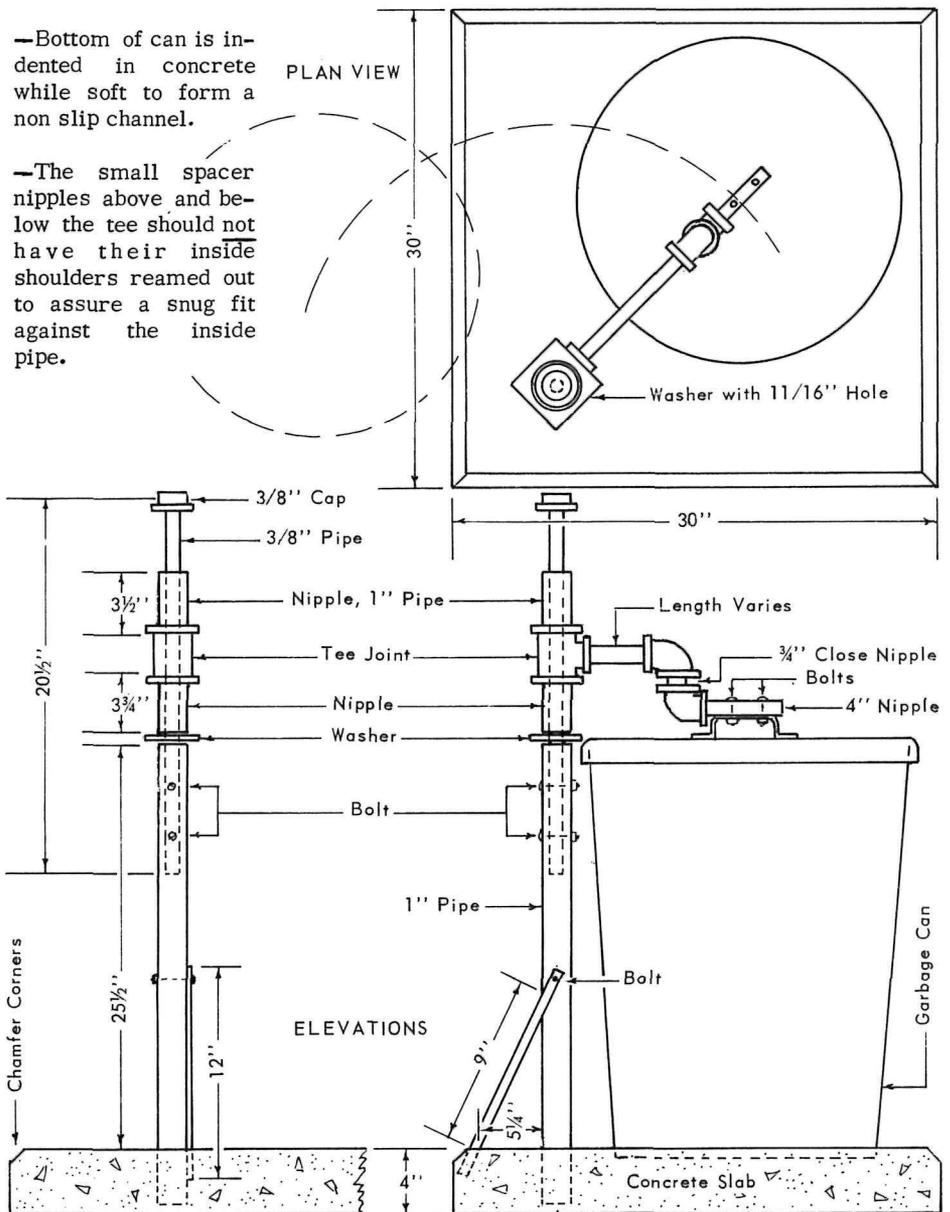
proof, wind-resistant and easy to operate. It simply lifts up to the 3/8 cap and swings out of the way for easy removal of the can. The can, indented in concrete to form a nonslip channel, cannot shift its position. To lock the whole unit down, one merely replaces the lid, which is fastened to the swivel.

The material used for the stand is discarded highway boundry and reflector metal, other materials should be available at all parks. Cost of unit is approximately three man hours plus material.

NOTE:

—Bottom of can is indented in concrete while soft to form a non slip channel.

—The small spacer nipples above and below the tee should not have their inside shoulders reamed out to assure a snug fit against the inside pipe.



PARK PRACTICE GRIST

a bimonthly publication of the nonprofit, educational Park Practice Program cooperatively conducted by the National Park Service, U.S.D.I., the National Conference on State Parks, and the National Recreation and Park Association as listed hereafter.

Chief, Division of Park Practice,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
(Editorial Office, Washington, D.C., Tel. (Area code 202) 381-7543

Conrad L. Wirth
Chairman, Board of Directors
Lawrence Stuart, President
Barry Tindall, Executive Secretary

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON STATE PARKS
1700 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006
Telephone: (Area code 202) 223-3030

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NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION
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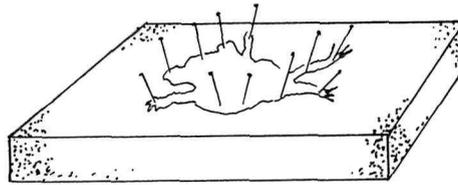
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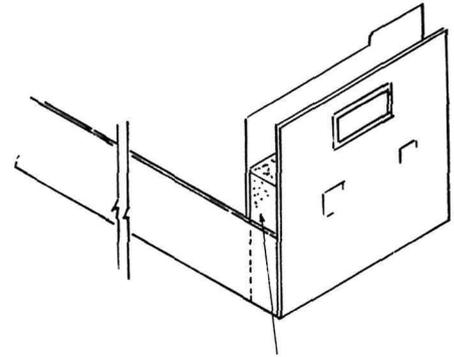
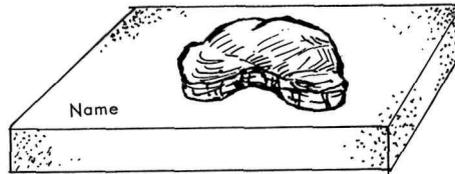
Speaking of Interpretation

5. Pinning board for drying specimens.



Pinning board

"Quiet" background



Styrofoam spacer

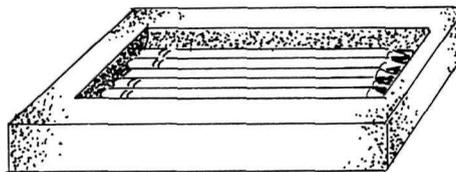
10. A pair dropped edge to edge in the front of a file drawer will make the index tabs of the first few folders more easily seen.

11. Good corks for fishing.

That's just a start on the "million" uses Don has found. Have you found any others?

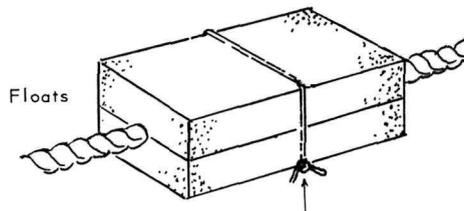
6. "Quiet" background for rock displays.

7. Pencil tray.



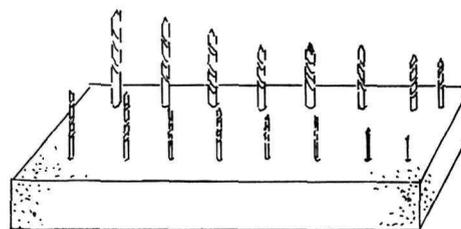
8. Or an upright pencil holder.

9. Ideal shipping cartons for fragile specimens. Especially good for rock specimens or machine parts which can be pushed into the styrofoam.



Both halves tied together with nylon.

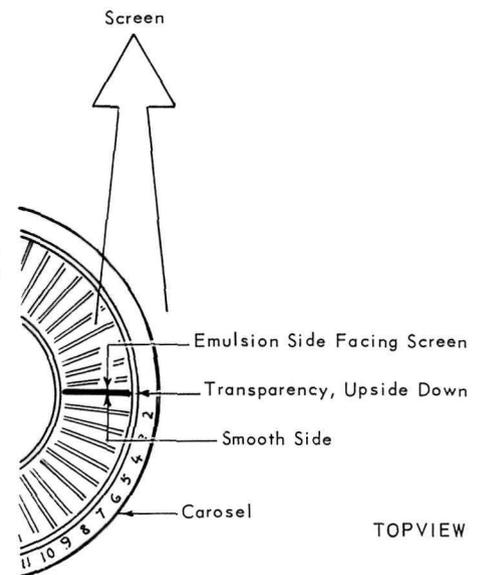
Stand for small tools or drills.



CORRECT CAROUSEL PROJECTION TRAY LOADING

John Hast, Safety, National Park Service, offers some suggestions for correctly loading a Carousel projection tray.

Place the slide in the tray upside down and with the emulsion side facing the screen. (The emulsion side will appear to have less reflection when held to a light.)



TOPVIEW

The tray should be placed with the loading slots (1, 2, 3, etc.) to the right hand side of the person doing the loading. This way it is easy to note where the "Kodak" symbol appears on the slide and to arrange it in the relatively same position in the tray at all times. Proper placement of the slide is achieved with minimum effort.

WHY THROW THEM AWAY?

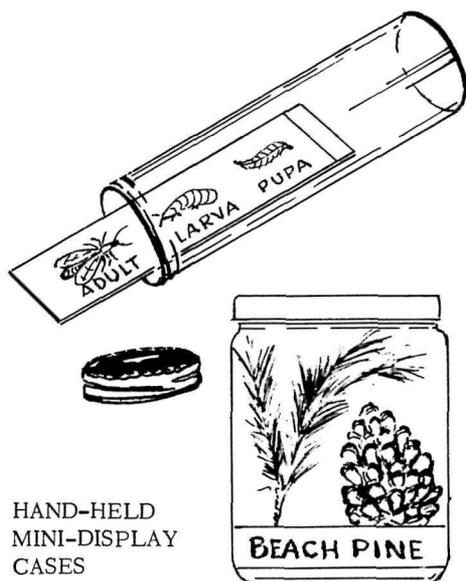
Ever since mimeograph ink began coming in styrofoam shipping containers, Donald M. Black, Twentynine Palms, California, has been finding uses for the "empties."

1. A tray for small nails, screws, and other such items.

2. A tray for keeping specimen pinning tissues flooded with chemical solution. The broad flat area allows for spreading of the tissue. The other side of the container can be used as a lid to protect the specimen when not in use.

3. Floats for swim markers or buoys. Tie both halves together with nylon.

4. A stand for small tools or drills.



HAND-HELD
MINI-DISPLAY
CASES

Confucius say, "One picture worth a thousand words." But Wendell C. Rickon, naturalist ranger, Mendocino Area Headquarters, California State Department of Parks and Recreation, gives that a new twist—an actual object held in the hand is worth ten thousand more.

Many of the small objects which we wanted park visitors to see and handle while he talked were fragile and would be easily damaged. What he needed was a display case, small, transparent, which he could carry in his pocket on a hike and bring out at the appropriate time in his talk.

Small baby food jars, pill containers, Alka-Selzer bottles, and the like seemed about right for his needs. Here is the way Rick does it.

For small objects, such as insects, sea shells, seeds, small flowers, he first selects a container of the right size. Then he cuts a round piece of cardboard which exactly fits inside. On this cardboard he plans where the objects will go, then letters on it the desired labels of interpretive information so that the visitor will be able to read through the container.

Next he glues the objects to the cardboard, allows time for drying, then slips the cardboard into the jar, dropping in a few moth crystals before capping it. There he has a Mini-Display which can be safely passed around on hikes or at an information center. At a glance a visitor can see: an insect's life cycle; the cone, seed, and needles of a pine; the five kinds of limpets found in a given tidepool area; or any of a wide variety of miniature displays which an imaginative ranger can create. Easy to carry and no damage from handling.

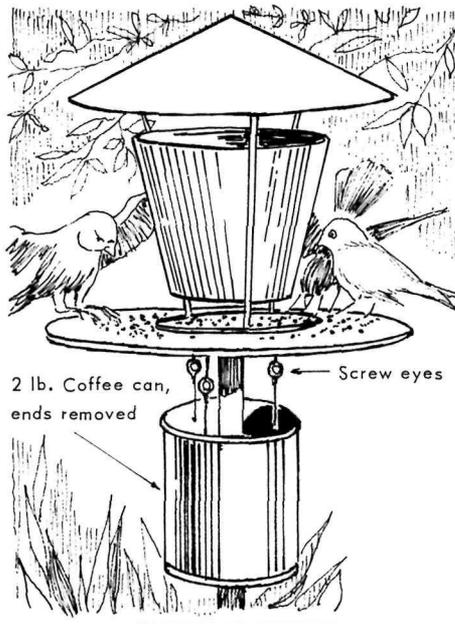
For larger objects which almost or completely fill a small jar, simply cut a narrow length of cardboard (the same circumference as the container), label it,

and coil it in the bottom of the jar with the words facing out. Then slide the object into the jar and the display is ready.

A warning from Rick: When using items having a high liquid content, first be sure they are thoroughly dried. If they are not, when the objects are sealed in the jar, temperature changes will tend to cause condensation on the inside wall and mold may form on the specimens. A desiccant called "Silica-Jell" (found at hobby shops) has given best results.

BIRD FEEDER PROTECTOR

Poachers can't get to the bird feeder if you'll suspend from it a two-pound coffee can (top and bottom removed) with three wires attached. If touched the can will swing, causing the squirrel or other animal to lose its grip. Thanks to Carl H. Stute in Popular Mechanics.



FIRST ANNIVERSARY FOR WIA

The Western Interpreters Association is celebrating its first anniversary this May. A professional society of interpretive personnel, including naturalists, historians, teachers and museum people, it was created to fill a void in communication and training opportunities in the Western States.

Designed to function primarily through regional chapters, the goals and objectives of the organization are: to promote excellence in the interpretation of history and natural history; to assist in the improvement of the interpretive profession; and to foster the development of highly competent professional interpreters.

Membership categories and costs are:

Professional, \$10.00, for persons working in professional capacities as interpreters for at least a two-month period each year, including certified teachers and museum staffs; Associate, \$5.00, for persons allied to or interested in interpretation; Student, \$3.00, for any student of any grade level; and Institutional, \$15.00 per year or more, as a supporting contribution by agencies or institutions interested in or benefiting from interpretive efforts.

Free brochures may be requested by writing to Miss Maryann Danielson, c/o San Mateo County Junior Museum, Coyote Point, San Mateo, California 94401. A free copy of the professional bulletin "The Interpreter" and announcements on current workshops and conferences may also be requested.

FILMSTRIPS AVAILABLE

The New York Times has assembled two new filmstrip programs concerning current problems of national interest: "Crisis of the Environment" and "The Cities: People and Their Problems." Each set contains five full-color filmstrips coordinated with recorded sound and the printed word.

The first, "Crisis of the Environment," covers the subject uppermost in the minds of many young people and confronts them with the hard and controversial decisions that every American must help to make. It explores the tragic paradox of our age: How some of man's proudest achievements have spawned side-effects in the environment that threaten not only the quality of life but its very survival.

Titles include "Man: An Endangered Species," "Breaking the Biological Strand," "Vanishing Species," "Preserve and Protect," and "The Population Explosion."

Available for Fall 1970 evaluation, "The Cities, People and Their Problems" concerns the problems and tensions of the inner-city in an increasingly urbanized America. Encouraging students to form their own opinions on how the quality of urban life can be improved, it discusses the people (newcomers and oldtimers alike) who are fighting to remove the tensions by solving the problems.

Titles of the filmstrips are: "Living in the City," "Working in the City," "Schools in the City," "Leisure in the City," and "Citizens and the City." A preview discount of 10 percent is offered if a request for preview is received before September 15.

A complete filmstrip catalogue covering other current and forthcoming programs is available upon request from The New York Times, Book and Educational Division, 229 W. 43 Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

VANDALPROOF TOILET
TISSUE DISPENSER

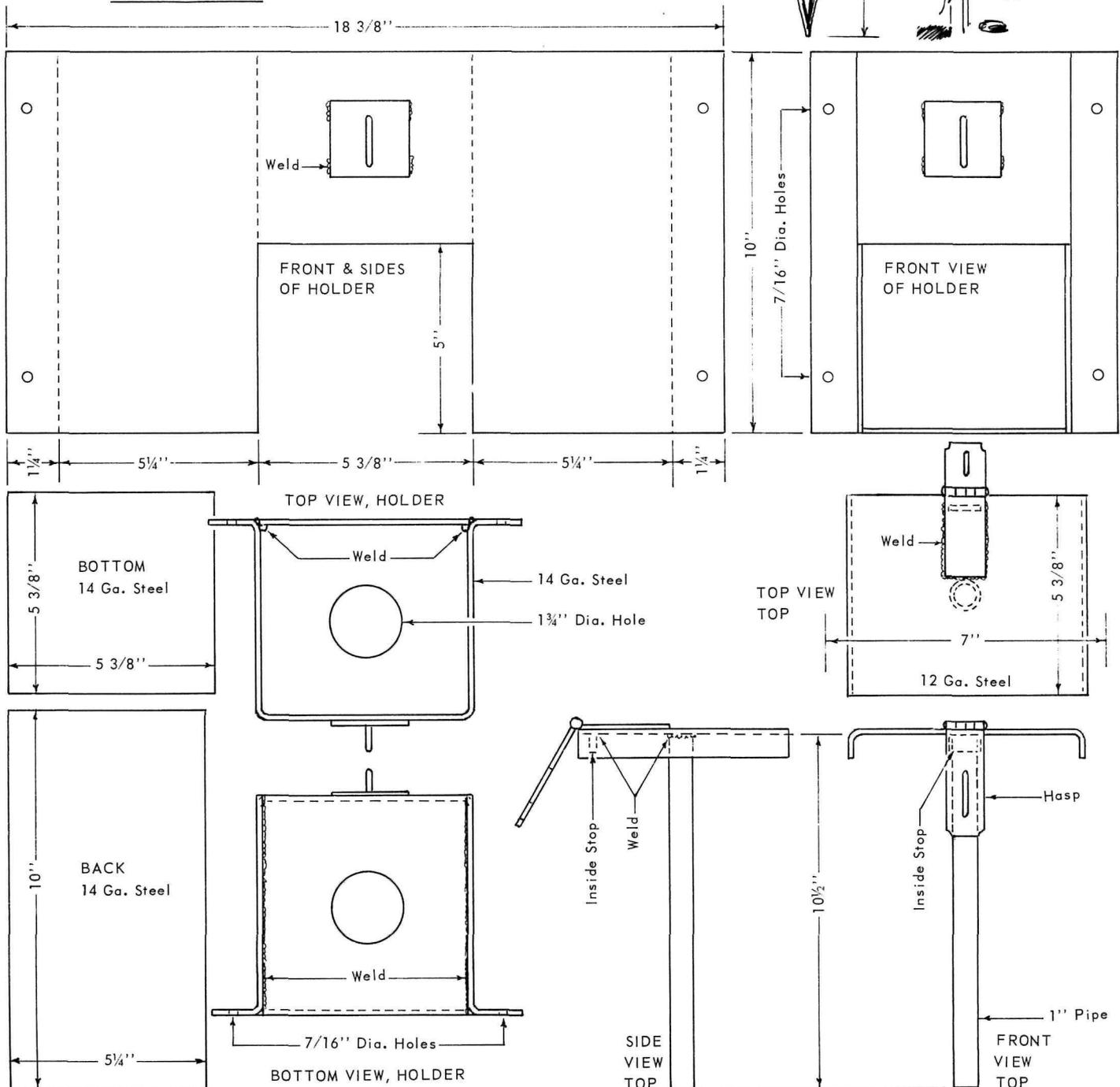
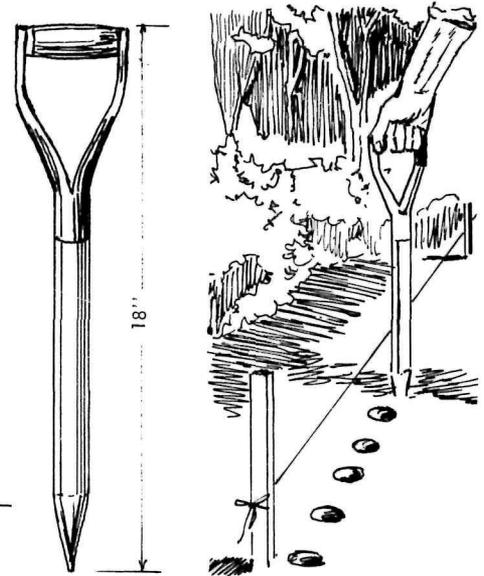
At Proctor Project, U.S. Army Engineering District Fort Worth, at Comanche, Texas, personnel found it almost impossible to maintain toilet tissue in public-use toilets using standard tissue rollers. J. B. Parkman of the Project Office designed the vandalproof toilet tissue dispenser shown here.

The design prevents vandals from removing a roll and also provides a spare after one roll has been used. The Parkman designed dispensers, which are inexpensive, were made and installed by Project personnel. They are made from tubing, pipe, strap, and plate metal.

*Let it not be said, and to your shame,
that all was beauty here until you came.*
—From a sign in Great Britain.

PUT THAT BROKEN
SHOVEL HANDLE BACK TO WORK

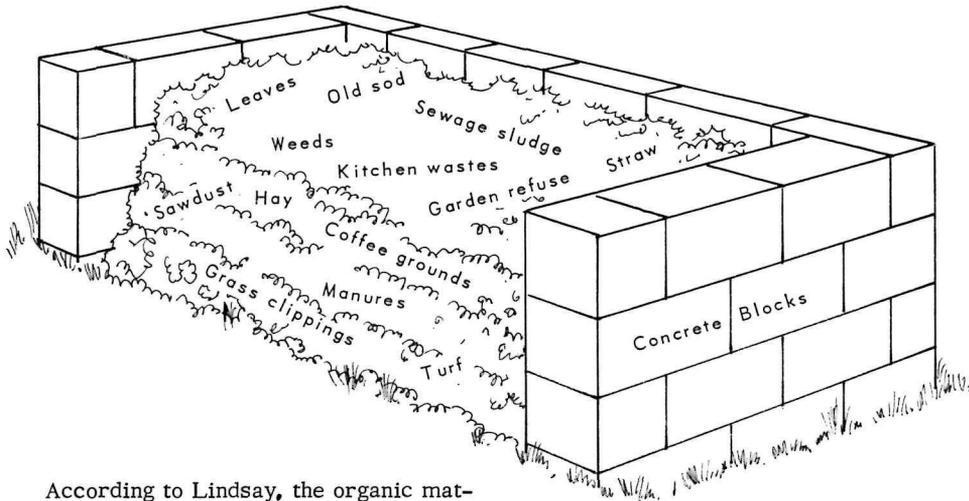
You can get new duty as a dibble from that broken shovel handle. Just cut the handle to a length of about 18 inches and finish the end of it to a point for easy insertion into the ground. There's your dibble to make holes for transplanting young seedlings. Courtesy of Albert T. Pippi in Popular Mechanics.



COMPOSTING

Composting is a simple but highly effective way to improve our environment, according to D. James Lindsay, chief horticulturist at National Capital Parks.

"A compost is a mixture of vegetation or organic matter which is decomposed into a substance that gives fertility to soil, productivity to plants and health to man," he says. "The organic matter utilized in making compost can consist of grass clippings, leaves, weeds, garden refuse, sawdust, coffee grounds and other kitchen wastes, old sod or turf, manures of all types, hay, straw, sewage sludge, etc."



According to Lindsay, the organic matter should be stacked in layers in a bin or structure approximately five feet wide and no less than four feet high, with the length optional.

It should consist of a six to twelve-inch layer of green matter or refuse followed by a two-inch layer of manure, bonemeal, sludge or other material containing nitrogen to assist the bacteria in their decomposition process.

This layer should be followed by a layer of soil and phosphorus. Then the first layer is repeated until the desired height is attained. Finally, a layer of soil is applied over the entire surface with a shallow basin formed on top to catch water and distribute it uniformly throughout the heap.

In three weeks the heap is turned. Four weeks later it is turned again to insure that all material has a chance to get into the center of the heap where decomposition is proceeding most rapidly due to temperatures of 150 degrees. In a total of three months the rich compost is ready for use in the garden, for planting of trees and shrubs or for use on turf.

To insure rapid decomposition and to assist the bacteria doing this work, the organic matter should be shredded into small particles; nitrogen, bonemeal, sludge, etc. should be added; proper ventilation of the heap assured; the heap turned as directed; proper amounts of moisture maintained; soil added in layers; and even earthworms added to assist in the process.

The organic matter gives big returns after it has decomposed and is returned to the soil. It assures increased fertility, provided that plants of varying sources have been used. Its main usefulness is that it reacts with plant nutrients in the soil and makes them readily available to plants.

Compost also increases the soil's water holding capacity and improves its tilth and aeration qualities.

And lastly, by making and using compost we provide a means of disposing of much refuse that would otherwise, in its raw form, contaminate our environment. These former contaminations are now improving

the soil structure and its fertility and producing bigger and healthier fruits and vegetables, which in turn improve the health of mankind.

CAMPGROUND HIGH LIGHT

Any old hand at camping knows that the best location for a lantern is high overhead where it casts the minimum amount of shadow. Those of you who operate and maintain campgrounds also know that lanterns are all too often hung from nails, ropes, or wires, damaging trees and campsite facilities or furniture and creating hazards.

Ranger W. C. Rickon, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Mendocino Area, picked up from an old camper the idea for a high lantern hook, improved upon it and passed it along for GRIST readers. It is now the standard for Mendocino Area, where it has received many favorable comments from campers over the past two years.

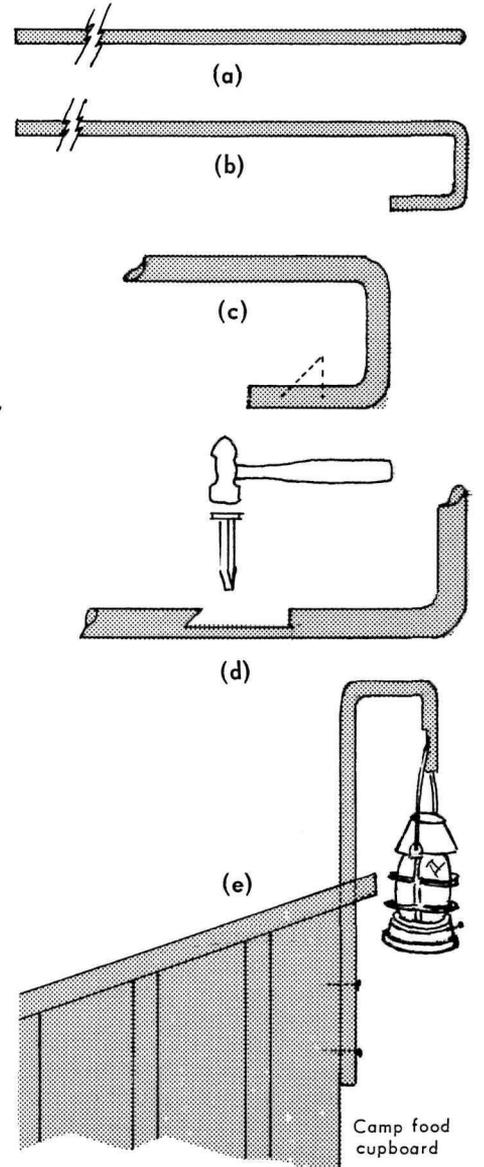
You'll need: a 5' length of 1/2" thin-wall electrical conduit and or 3 #8-1 1/2" wood screws. The tools to have at hand are: hack saw, conduit bender, drill and bit, small punch, hammer, and screwdriver.

Construction Steps

1. Cut the 1/2" thin-wall conduit to 5' length (see sketch a).

2. Six inches from one end bend a 90-degree angle; then 4" to 6" further along bend another 90-degree angle to form a smooth 180-degree curve (sketch b).

3. Two inches from curved end cut a slot approximately half way through conduit at a 45-degree angle towards the end; then about 1/2" further along cut another slot approximately half way through at a 90-degree angle (sketch c).



4. Punch in area between cuts to form lantern hook (sketch d).

5. Drill screw holes and mount (sketch e).

California State Park food lockers are shed roof construction. By drilling a hole through the roof overhead and passing the conduit through it and then screwing it down, the unit is more securely fastened.

LET'S MAKE LESS SMOKE!

Observing and experimenting in the Twentynine Palms, California area from 1966 to 1969, convinced Don M. Black that more smoke per unit of rubbish is caused by open bulk burning on the county disposal area than would be created by burning in smaller units at private homes and businesses. Poor circulation of air through truck loads of rubbish causes improper burning and maximum smoke.

One of today's urgent problems is to reduce the daily quantities of pollutants added to the atmosphere. Don thinks that one way we can help is by efficiently burning our own rubbish.

Efficiently is the key word there, and to achieve that here are his suggestions.

Household rubbish should be sorted in three ways:

1. Non-burning, such as bottles, broken dishes, and cans with paper wrappers removed. These can be stored in paper bags and set out when rubbish is collected or taken to the central dump.

2. Very flammable. This includes all dry tissue, can wrappers, meat wrappings, and greasy bits of meat. These, too, are stored in large paper bags.

3. Wet garbage is a major problem. Pour non-greasy liquids down the drain; septic tanks will digest them. Greasy liquids should be stored in cans until disposed of. Peelings can be spread out in an inverted garbage can lid and dehydrated by air and sun prior to burning.

Now it's sorted. How do you dispose of it?

A 55-gallon can makes an excellent burner if some air holes are provided in the sides and some in the bottom for air and drainage. Some supports under the can will reduce the tendency for the bottom to rust out. The holes in the sides should be all the way around the can and at several levels. This allows air to enter at the base of each batch of rubbish as the barrel is gradually filled, and air can enter no matter what the wind direction.

Place the most flammable materials first in the burner, then the dried peelings on top. If it is a windy day, light the top of the flammable material and it will burn downward. If the day is quiet, then light the lower part of the flammable material; this creates a strong upward draft which increases the heat to make a cleaner fire. Do not place bags full of rubbish in the burning barrel. Dump and scatter all rubbish to help insure air circulation and burning.

Newspapers are "smolder prone" and perhaps cause the most smoke in backyard fires. Their burning efficiency is better if they are shredded, wadded, or crumpled before being placed in the burner.

Burning manners are important. Before lighting a fire, be sure there is a readily available source of water. Respect your neighbor's clothes line and air conditioner. A clean fire seldom has obnoxious smoke and odors. Have a gentlemen's agreement with your neighbors that anyone can put out a smoking, smouldering rubbish fire.

After the rubbish is burned, pour any greasy materials into the charred remains; liquids will drain downward and filter out, and the remaining solids and grease will dry out and burn with the next fire.

Have a protective covering of screen with holes one inch, or less, to use when burning trash and to prevent winds from scattering rubbish between burnings. Edges of the cover should be turned down to prevent its sliding off accidentally or being pushed off by animals. A rain shedding cover should protect the burner when not in used.

If a low container is used, make the burner secure and cover so that animals cannot remove the lid or overturn the container and scatter rubbish.

Of course, before you undertake burning of your own trash, be certain that there is no regulation against it.

KEEP AMERICA CLEAN—
ANTI-LITTER SIGN

National Park Service areas such as Natchez Trace Parkway must spend huge sums of money picking up and disposing of trash carelessly thrown from vehicles or left in picnic areas, campgrounds, and elsewhere. It is estimated that the annual cost of picking up and disposing of trash for the entire Natchez Trace Parkway is \$63,000. So, every litter bit does hurt, and if he'd just think about it, it hurts right in the pocketbook of the taxpayer who throws it.



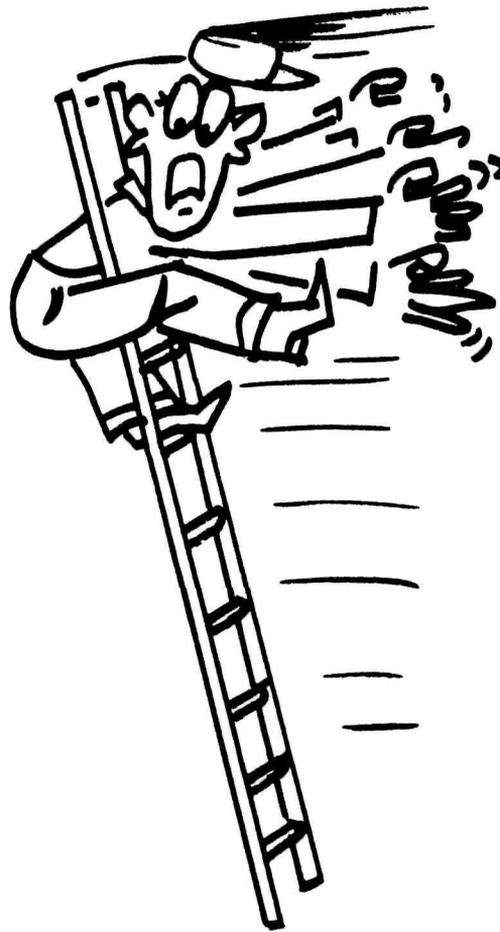
Visitors to Natchez Trace Parkway are encouraged to refrain from littering by the sign shown in the photograph which was recently placed near Tupelo, Mississippi, in a heavily traveled area on a trial basis. First reports indicate that littering has decreased considerably in the general area.

AT WORK OR HOME—

USE LADDERS SAFELY

Ralph W. Armstrong, Travelers Insurance Company suggests these few simple rules to follow when using a ladder.

1. Choose the Right Ladder. Get the right size ladder, neither too long nor too short. Be sure that it is equipped with safety feet.
2. Check the Condition of the Ladder. Watch for split or cracked side rails, missing or broken rungs, splinters, or other weaknesses and dangers.



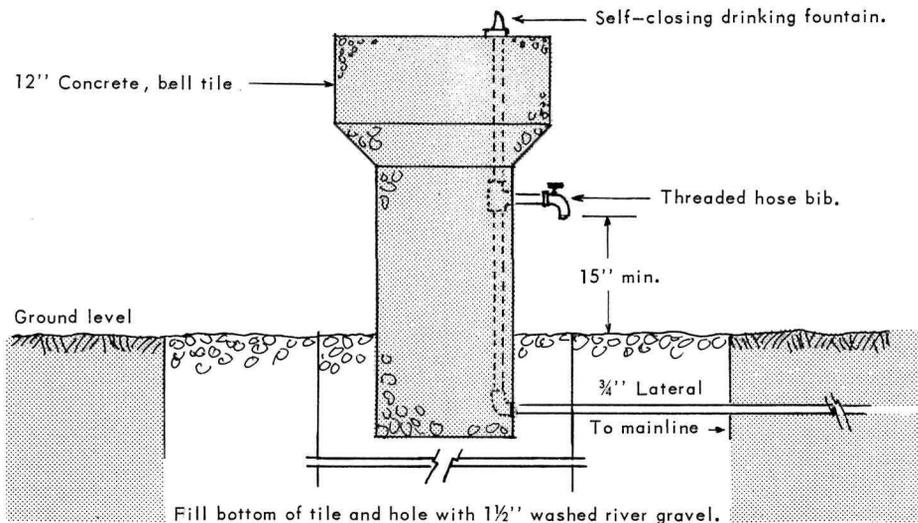
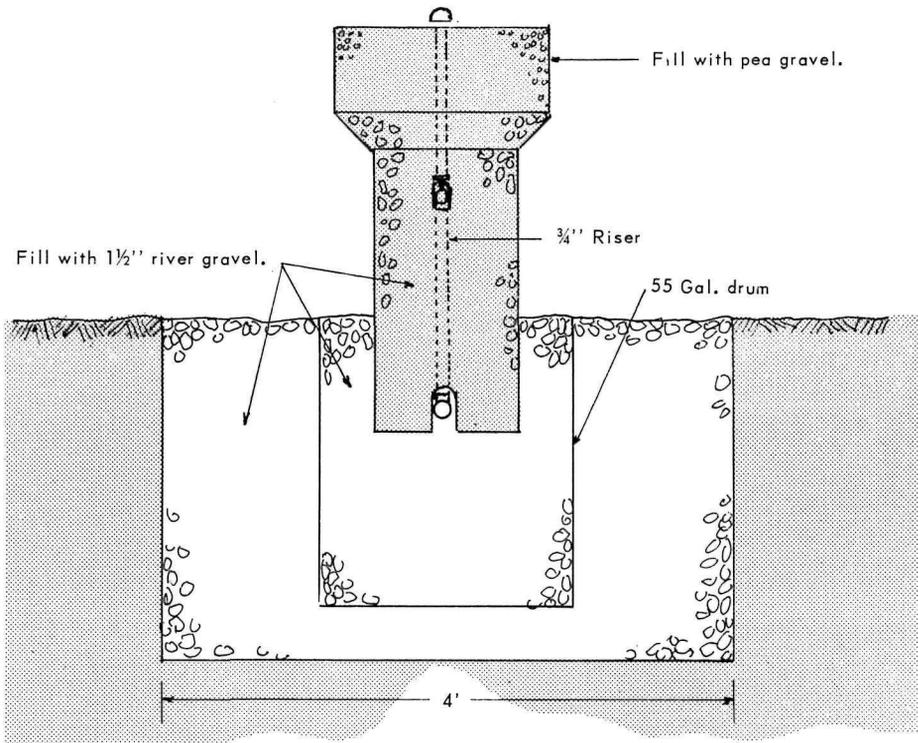
3. Place the Ladder with Care. Be sure the ladder has a firm footing with the feet one-fourth the length of the ladder away from the upright surface to be climbed.
4. Climb the Ladder Carefully. Be sure your shoe soles are in good condition and free of grease and mud. Always face the ladder and hold on with both hands when going up or down. Don't try to carry tools or materials; raise them with a hand line.
5. Never Overreach! Move the Ladder Instead. Don't lean out to the sides when you're on a ladder. When necessary, use your safety belt and line and "tie off".

**ECONOMICAL WATER
FOUNTAIN & FAUCET**

The fountain shown here was designed by Gene O. Jenkins, director, Coos County Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for use in primitive type forest camps where no sewer lines are available.

After digging a lateral line trench, a 4' x 4' x 30" hole is dug for a 12" concrete bell-tile. The hole is then filled with 1 1/2" gravel level with the bottom of the trench. Next, the lateral line is placed and the 3/4" riser assembly attached, leaving the faucet off. Openings are drilled in the tile for the lateral line and the hose bib, and the tile is then lifted over the riser and set in place. The faucet is then attached. In some situations a 55-gallon drum with the top and bottom cut out has been used to set the tile. Surrounding the drum with gravel provides greater down-

ward extension and more stability. The hole in which the tile sits is then filled to the top with 1 1/2" washed river gravel allowing it to serve as a dry well. The same type gravel is put into the bottom of the tile to the hose bib and then topped with pea gravel.



**MEMORY JOGGER
FOR AUTO HEADLIGHTS**

Have you ever used your headlights for daylight driving through rain or fog, then parked and returned later to find a dead battery?

Park Ranger Jim Neal, Mendocino Area Headquarters, Department of Parks and Recreation, State of California, uses a simple method to prevent its happening. He attaches a small binder clip (Swingline Binder Clip No. 12, or similar) to the ignition key whenever he turns the headlights on during daylight hours. Then, when he parks, the clip on the ignition key is a reminder that the lights are on. He then turns the lights off, shuts the engine off, and returns the clip to its storage place on the sun visor.

**KEEP AMERICA CLEAN—
CASH-FOR-CANS PROGRAM**

More than 112,000 pounds of aluminum cans—that's some 2 1/2 million of them—had been turned in by civic groups and individuals six weeks from the time the Adolph Coors Company (brewers) of Golden, Colorado, started its cash-for-cans program early this year. By the end of the year they predict that the program will have resulted in reclamation of at least 2 1/2 million pounds of aluminum—more than 50 million aluminum cans.

The incentive? A dime a pound for aluminum cans. What makes this possible? Aluminum can be recycled, that is, it can be used over and over again. The collected cans are shipped to Golden, Colorado, where they are fed into a shredding machine. The granulated aluminum is then forwarded to a Reynolds Metal Company plant in Huntsville, Alabama for recycling.

Not only Coors Company cans are accepted, but all aluminum cans. The company stresses that there are two chief ways to identify an all-aluminum can. One is that there is no side seam. The other is that the bottom is rounded, not flat like the bottom of a conventional tin can. The fact that a can has the word "aluminum" stamped on the lid does not necessarily mean that the entire can is aluminum.

Cans are being received by 185 Coors distributors in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming. Cash payment by distributors is immediate.

Most of the \$11,200 which Coors distributors had paid out after six weeks was to civic groups which rounded up the cans to raise cash for community causes. If the groups fulfill the Coors Company's prediction of rounding up 2 1/2 million pounds of aluminum during 1970, they will receive a quarter million dollars under the dime-a-pound deal.

How many thousand pounds of aluminum cans could be picked up in park areas?

QUICK FACTS ABOUT PAINT REMOVERS

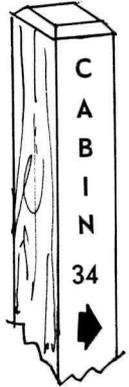
Characteristics	Types of Removers			
	Liquid	Heavy-Bodied Non-Wash-Off (Methylene Chloride)	Heavy-Bodied Wash-Off (Methylene Chloride)	Paste
Removes Lacquer		●		●
Removes synthetic baked finishes		●	●	
Removes latex paint		●		●
Removes varnish and oil-base paints	●	●	●	●
Penetrates deeply		●	●	●
Is nonflammable		●	●	
Has low toxicity		●	●	●
Washes off with water			●	
Requires scraping	●	●	Some	●
Works on vertical surfaces		●	●	●
Works on horizontal surfaces	●	●	●	●

from Popular Mechanics.

MORE DURABLE CABIN MARKERS

Vandalism, damage by automobiles, and normal wear and tear made it necessary to replace several cabin number signs every year at Watoga State Park, West Virginia. Superintendent Richard Dale and Ranger Vernon Dean found a more long-lasting way to mark the cabins.

The old markers were 28" white pine fastened to locust posts. Then new markers are 5" x 5" squared locust posts into which the cabin number and an arrow are routed as shown in the sketch. Not a post has needed replacement in three years.



It is only when knowledge leads to understanding and understanding leads to wisdom that the survival of man will be assured.

—Shimoda (c.1968)
Hyde Park, N. Y.

FIRE HOSE BOX

A 15" x 22" x 48" box has been substituted for an antiquated hose house by Louie A. Logsdon, fire control aid at Mammoth Cave National Park. Although the new hose box serves the same purpose as the old one, it presents a much more pleasing appearance and does not obstruct

Before



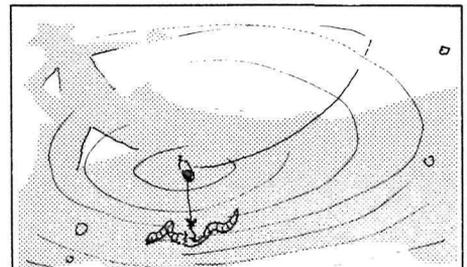
After



the view of visitors staying in surrounding cottages.

The box contains every piece of equipment that was housed in the original: hydrant wrench, pry bar, axe and 500 feet of 1 1/2" linen hose. The initial cost of \$10.95 for materials is less than the annual maintenance of the old structure. Light and compact, it will only need painting every two years.

THE SURVIVAL KIT



Swim belly up! The fisherman leave; they think this stream's polluted.



Jim Burnett