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Commentary

THE SUN IS IN THE EAST

For ages past bards and philosophers have pointed to the dawning of the new year and proclaimed it a time of stock-taking. Not of physical assets particularly (although this is the proper moment), but of our personal objectives, of our individual fallacies, of our selfish indifferences—in brief, of our sins against ourselves and against our fellow beings.

Heeding this time-honored tradition, we set about making resolutions, most of which are to be broken before the sun sets on the first day; or for the more strong-willed, before the end of the first week of the new year. It all seems so in vain, this making of resolutions which we often admit (to ourselves only, of course) we shall find difficult, if not impossible, to keep. Why bother?

There is much good in it even though our resolutions are to be broken. We have at least gone through the exercise of recognizing some of our shortcomings, and this simple act of recognition gives us a degree of strength. We all secretly long to be stronger physically, spiritually, and materially.

We who are in the service of others have an especially important reason for personal stock-taking, for the welfare of so many persons of all ages and sizes depends upon our planning, our work habits, and our concern for their leisure time, if only for brief periods. Although we are not necessarily in a profit-making business, our own personal futures depend none-the-less upon those who come to enjoy the recreational and inspirational opportunities given into our keeping. We therefore have a responsibility—to people and to ourselves—to see to it that we each function effectively and efficiently. We must work as a team for we are interdependent—from the top to the bottom and back again. We are as links in a chain of cooperation, and the chain can be no stronger than its weakest link.

The sun is in the east of the new year, figuratively speaking. If, in our careful examination of the facts accumulated over

the past few years, we are to consider the hypothesis of growth in all forms of recreational demands, we at once recognize the need for greatly renewed effort in every aspect of our endeavors. It is, more than ever before, stock-taking time. In a few short months more people than ever before will visit with us. Will their search for spiritual and physical refreshment be fulfilled? Will their experiences in the places we hold in trust for them be rewarding? Will they return home fully satisfied with what they have seen, with what they have learned, with what they have done? Or will they have cause for complaint because one link in the chain was too weak?

Not, indeed, if there has been a stock-taking, and now is the time to take stock.
—Ira B. Lykes

NEW WAY TO BUILD

LAUNCHING RAMPS

Boat ramps are needed in more and more locations as the number of trailer-toted boats grows each year, and keeping up with the demand is a problem in many parks. For parks which have or can rent bulldozers, there is a new method of installing concrete ramps, developed by engineers of the Tennessee Valley Authority.



The TVA engineers pour solid concrete slabs as large as 20' by 30' on shore, near the desired ramp site, and then push

the finished slabs into the water with a bulldozer (as shown in the photograph). One or more slabs may be used, as conditions require.

Slabs used for the ramps are scored in a herringbone pattern to provide traction. The surface provided by the pre-cast slabs is considerably more even than that of concrete "plank" or steel type ramps, and requires less maintenance.

In TVA's recreation facility demonstration area in "The Land Between the Lakes" in Kentucky and Tennessee, the method followed for making the new-type ramp is as follows:

1. Prepare ramp base, both above and below waterline—preferably 14 percent grade, not less than 12.5 percent (8 to 1) slope. Slope should extend above water at least 20 feet horizontally from the water's edge. If available, use backhoe out as far as it can reach.
2. Cover ramp surface above and below water with 3 to 4 inches of gravel.
3. Building form above water, using plastic floor over gravel to prevent loss of grout.
4. Pour slab 20' x 20' x 6" or 20' x 30' x 6". Reinforce to be self-supporting over unequal bottom for light loads.
5. Allow to cure 28 days.
6. Use bulldozer to push slab into water on prepared gravel bed. Slab will maintain proper slope due to weight.
7. If more length is needed, prepare extended underwater slope by running backhoe out on new slab.
8. Pour another section as above, butt the second section against the first. To tie the two sections together, reinforcing steel members used in the first section should extend beyond the upper edge of the section. After this first portion is completed and pushed forward, the steel extensions can be looped among the reinforcing steel members used in the second section for a more secure bond. Push both out into the water. Finally, pour a slab above waterline on acceptable grade (usually less than that of ramp) and keyed into solid ground.
9. Dress sides with large rock to prevent deterioration from backwash.

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ASH STAND AND UNUSUAL PLANTERS

The ash stand shown here was made up at the suggestion of former Superintendent C.L. Peterson of Fort Clatsop National Memorial, who had the local concrete pipe firm close the bottom of some sections of 8" ID concrete pipe. The sections were then painted with beige concrete paint and filled with sand. When it was discovered that the sand got on the floor, standard GSA large size glass ash trays were placed on top of the sand. They fit perfectly. Jack V. Houston, Administrative Assistant at Fort Clatsop, who passed along the idea, says that the stands cost about one fourth as much as ceramic urns of similar style.

Jack also wrote about the planter in the same picture which was drilled out of a log section with a 2" planetary bit in a large electric drill. Holes were drilled down about 3/4 of the length of the log section and then chisled out clean. No drain hole is needed in the planter as water passes through natural passages of the wood in about two hours if the plant is over-watered. Small native shrubs and ferns do very well in this type planter. Watering is best done by partly filling the shallow pan on which the planter sits.

The planter in the second photograph is a partly rotted log with native plants

growing on it—easy to find in the semi-rain-forest area of Fort Clatsop. This "natural planter" gets much visitor attention. The shallow pan is partly filled and some water poured over the plants every two or three days as needed.

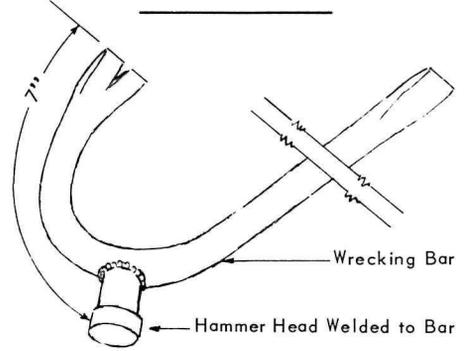
The planter pans are galvanized sheet metal 1" deep, painted brown on the outside edge. The common names of the



IMPROVED WRECKING BAR

A hammer head welded to a wrecking bar can save shifting to a second tool on many jobs. The hammer head can be used to start old nails out so they can then be pulled with the bar claws.

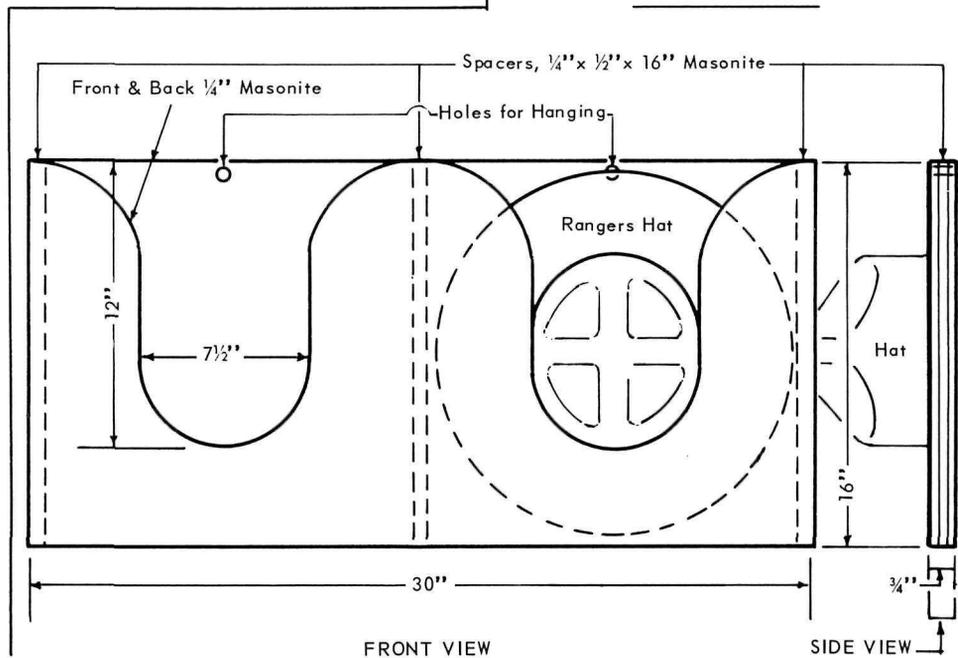
This suggestion was passed along to GRIST readers by Jerry Weeks, Assistant Manager, Rochester-Utica Recreation Area, Michigan.



HAT RACK FLATTENS BRIM

Rain, rough handling, and poor storage can make one of those neat National Park Service hats look like Marine Corps recruit training gear or World War I Army campaign hats. So Larry Henderson of Petrified Forest National Park decided to do something about the problem—he built a hat rack that flattens the brim and keeps the hat in proper shape.

Larry's design may be used for a rack to hold one hat or several. He uses 1/4" Masonite for construction, placing it so that the smooth side of the board touches the hat, front and back. The smooth surface prevents abrasion to the felt in the hat.

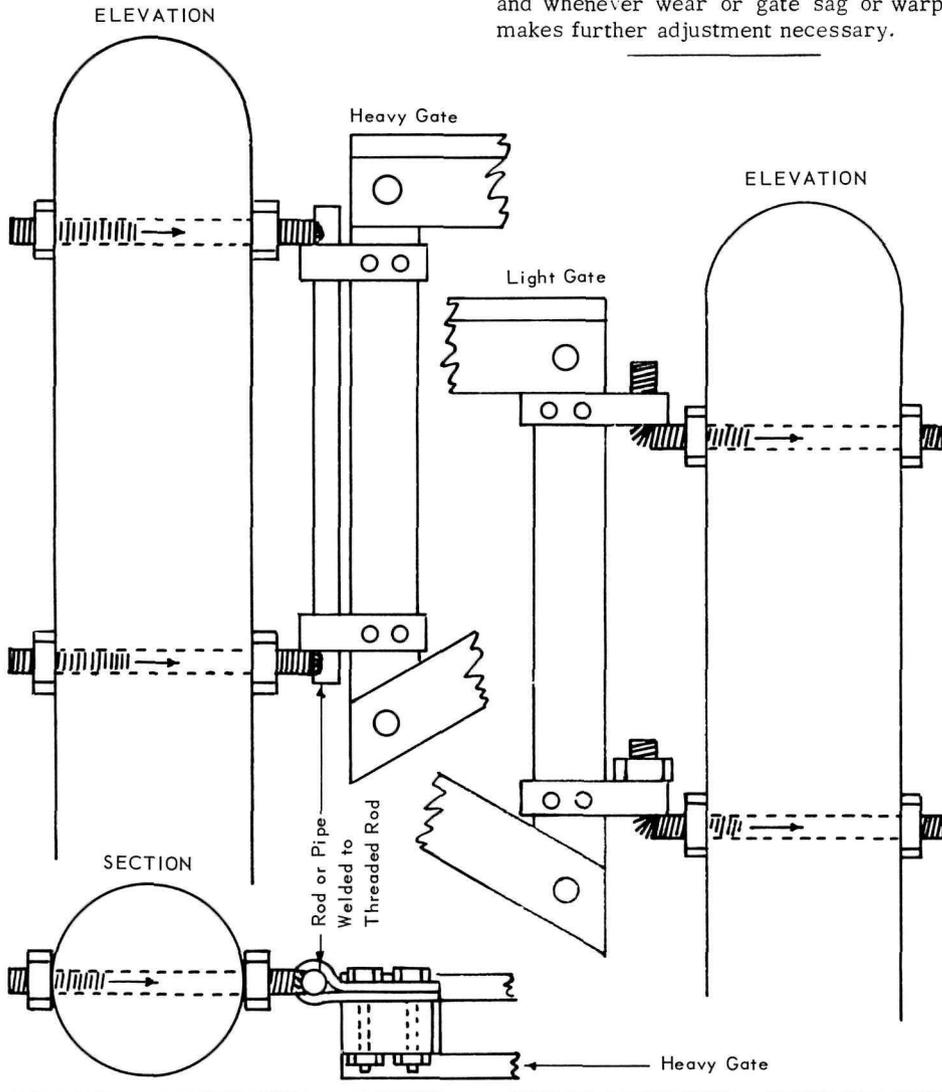


THREADED ROD FOR GATE HINGES

Threaded steel rod can be converted easily into adjustable supporting bolts for gate hinges. The hinges may be made up from strap steel, punched or drilled. Dexter Kowalsky, Assistant Park Manager

of the Holly Recreation Area in Michigan submitted the sketch shown here, giving two variations on the gate hinge system he uses.

For both types of hinges shown, Dexter uses 3/4" threaded rod, heavy enough to hold almost any park gate. The threaded rods allow plenty of room for adjusting the gates at the time of first installation and whenever wear or gate sag or warp makes further adjustment necessary.



STUMBLEPROOFING DOOR MATS

James M. Thomson, Superintendent of Fort Clatsop National Memorial, Astoria, Oregon says he was plagued with the problem of park visitors stumbling over coca door mats. Moving them to one side didn't solve anything for they were, for the most part, ignored. In the Northwest climate, this meant muddy floors and almost endless mopping.

To permit the placement of the mats directly in front of the doors so that they could not be avoided, yet to keep people from stumbling over them, required only a can of bright orange fluorescent paint. Jim sprayed the edge of the mat all the way 'round. Result: shoes now wiped and considerably less stumbling.

BATTERY POWERED COOKING

On land or sea, cruising in your boat, station wagon, or sleeper camper you can cook without the danger of handling and using inflammable liquids or gases.

You can use your 12-volt battery system or any conventional 110-volt outlet with a transformer to cook up a fast meal—hamburgers in minutes—with Cook Ray.

Component parts are military standard and the heating elements are guaranteed for life. Using a standard 55-amp. battery, you can use the stove on high setting for up to 45 minutes before recharging. When you start your boat or car moving, the engine and its regular alternator or generator replace the energy in less time

than was used in cooking. Low cost batteries such as the Sears 55-amp. at \$7.95 may be used; or you can have an extra reserve of power with a larger battery such as Western Auto's 93-amp. model at about \$23.00.

The "suggested retail price" of the stove is \$29.95. However, if you wish to



order directly from the manufacturer, mentioning that you noted the announcement in GRIST, a single stove may be purchased at the "dealer price" of \$18.00. In packs of six or more, the stoves may be had at the "distributor price" of \$12.85 each. Each stove is shipped with removable guard rails and tie down brackets, and a toaster attachment will be included without extra cost. Order directly from Stanzo Electronic Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 2186, Bridgeport, Conn.

No man needs sympathy because he has to work. . . . Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.
—Theodore Roosevelt

TO SEE THROUGH THE DUST

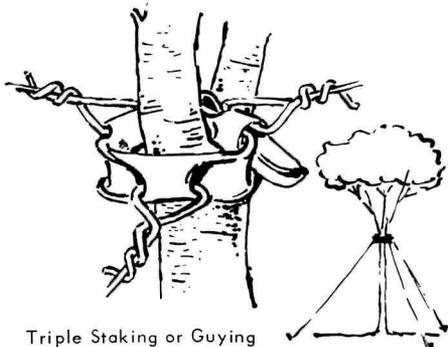
An airblower added to your routing machine will make the job easier and reduce the chances of making mistakes.



The photograph shows how Yoshio Nagai, Maintenance man, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, attached a blower to an Engravograph. The amount of air is controlled by the thumb screw clamp over the valve.

NEW TIE HOLDS TREES TO STAKES

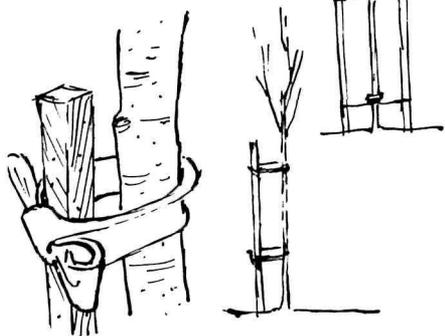
"Cinch-Tie", a new vinyl plastic product distributed by Dairymen's Fertilizer Co-op, Inc. of California, will hold a tree to stakes or guy wires easily and safely, do no damage to the tree bark, and provide a good appearance. Also, each "Cinch-Tie" will last indefinitely and is easily reused after a season or two in one place.



Triple Staking or Guying



Double Staking Without Using Cross Bars or Braces



Single Stake Detail Ties

As shown in the sketches, "Cinch-Tie" (Patent Pending) locks into itself to hold firmly, and is faster and easier to fasten than rope or cloth strip. The distributors claim a single "Cinch-Tie" is strong enough to tow a car.

"Cinch-Ties" are made up in 15", 18", and 24" lengths. For latest price information or other details, write Mr. J. Lichtenthaler, P.O. Box 998, Artesia, California.

To-day I have grown taller from walking with the trees.
-Karle Wilson Baker, Good Company.

A GUIDE FOR CAMPERS WITH DOGS

At many times in the past you have probably had problems trying to control campers with dogs. The Michigan Department of Conservation has come up with a folder "A Guide for Campers with Dogs" which will prove interesting and useful to you.

The folder reads as follows:

Dogs and people can create problems for each other under conditions which exist in a state park. The following regulations are intended to minimize these problems. We ask your cooperation in observing them.

It is unlawful to possess a dog in a state park or recreation area from May 1 to September 30, inclusive, unless the same shall be under immediate control on a leash not exceeding 6 feet in length, or to have a dog within any area used as a bathing beach. Any person having a dog creating a nuisance or disturbance or who fails to properly control a dog may be evicted from the park or recreation area. This provision shall not apply to dogs while being used in hunting, or in field trials, or while being trained, when upon lands open to such uses.

In an attempt to make your stay in the park more enjoyable and to assure your camping neighbors the same enjoyment, we ask that you cooperate with the park staff in taking care of your pet.

1. Don't leave the dog unattended.
2. Don't tie your dog to a tree or tent stake where a youngster, not knowing the dog's disposition, may be injured.
3. If you leave your camp, take your dog with you or ask some friend to take care of him so he isn't left locked in a car or trailer all day without food and water and barking for attention.
4. Take care of your dog's droppings by wrapping in a newspaper and placing in a trash basket.
5. If you walk your dog, do it in an isolated part of the park, not on a vacant campsite which may later be occupied by a family with young children.
6. Your dog should have had rabies shots and here again, we ask for your protection and for that of your fellow camper that you have a qualified veterinarian certify to the dog's health.

We are sure that the very fact that you have your dog with you is evidence that you sincerely care about the welfare of your dog.

The park staff is equally concerned for the welfare of all campers.

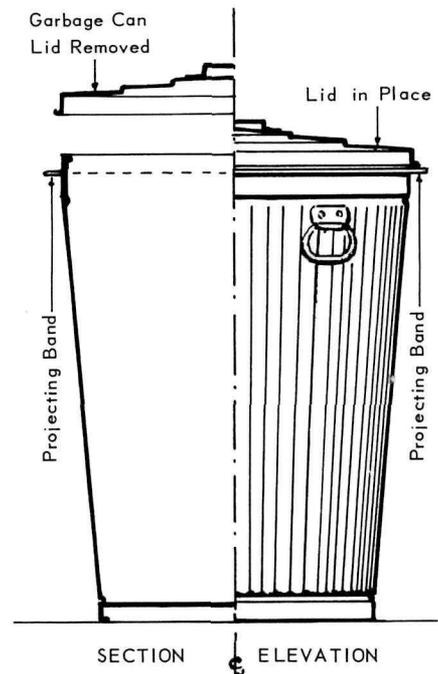
Your cooperation, as outlined, is most important for the enjoyment of all who visit or camp in Michigan's State Parks and Recreation Areas; and, your assistance will be most appreciated by the staff.

We want you to enjoy the park; however, we will have to insist upon compliance with these rules and regard for your camping neighbors. Otherwise, it may become necessary for us to ask you to leave the park.

Future dog regulations in Michigan State Parks, to a large extent, are in your hands.

ARE ANIMALS GETTING INTO YOUR GARBAGE CANS?

Pesky animals, such as raccoons, can make a nuisance of themselves when they remove garbage can lids and scatter the contents about the grounds.



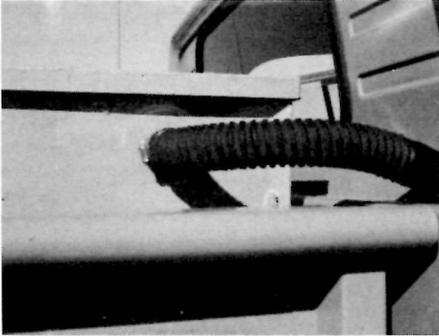
F. K. Sherfy, Conservation Officer of Backbone State Park, Iowa, suggests a band long enough to extend around a garbage can just under the lid. This piece of 3/16 x 3/4" stock is then tack welded to the existing band on a Lawson brand garbage can so that it projects out past the lid. This suggested band keeps animals from using their noses or paws to work the lid off. And when placed in a holder, the garbage can is secured against larger animals knocking it over.

This method, unlike some others, does not discourage visitors from lifting the lid and using the can, for there isn't anything to release, catch, or slide.

RADIATOR HOSE PROTECTS RADIO WIRING

The piece of radiator hose which you see on the side of the pickup in the photograph is serving a very important purpose.

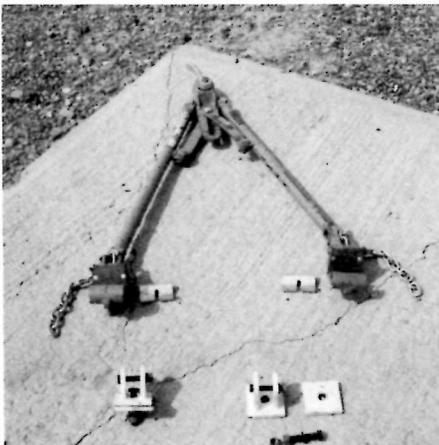
Edward J. Fahey, Senior Park Manager, Southwest, Colorado Game Fish and Parks Department, used this means to protect the wiring which runs from the two-way radio, which is in the box on the pickup, to the hand piece in the cab. The radiator



hose is proof against most tampering and accidental damage, and protects the wiring against weather damage as well.

KEEPING BUMPERS PRETTY

When Edward J. Fahey, Senior Park Manager, Southwest, Colorado Game Fish and Parks Department, gets a new vehicle, he likes to keep it looking that way as long as possible. If the vehicle should need a tow bar, Ed has found a way to attach it and not mar the new look.

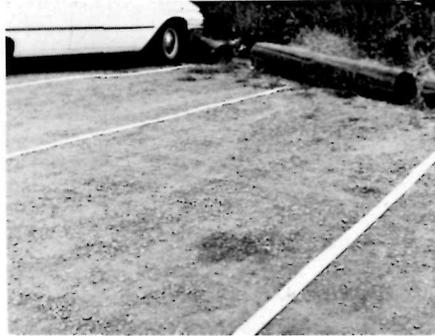


The brackets in the lower part of the picture are made to fit the tow bar shown here. Each bracket bolts to the bumper by means of a 1/2" bolt—no welding. And Ed doesn't use the chain and fittings shown in the tow bar either. When he puts the brackets on, Ed uses pieces of rubber to protect the finish of the vehicle.

When the tow bar is not needed the brackets are removed and a 1/2" bolt put into the hole for better appearance.

PARKING LINES THAT STAY VISIBLE

How can you keep car parking spaces marked on a gravel or cinder surface without repeating your work several times a season? The answer comes from Grand Portage, Minnesota, where, as the photograph shows, old fire hose has been staked down to mark each slot. The hose is painted at the time of installation and will stay visible for weeks without additional attention.



TOUGH COMPACT FRONT LOADER

A new 4-wheel drive front loader capable of turning in its own tracks, strong enough to handle 1000 pounds, and able to run for an hour on a gallon of gasoline is being produced by the Melroe Manufacturing Company of Gwinner, North Dakota. Called the Melroe Bobcat, it is an unusually versatile machine which not only handles all the usual front loader jobs but is easily converted to rotary snow plow or fast-acting backhoe, using attachments available from the manufacturer.

Use and demonstrations of a small front-end loader indicate it has numerous applications in park operations.

Jack Fink, Assistant Chief of Equipment Maintenance, National Capital Region, NPS, reports on one recent demonstration in which the Melroe Bobcat Loader unloaded a carload of salt in just a little more than an hour, or about half the time required with previous unloading methods.

This speed is due in part to the fact that the Bobcat's 47-inch turning radius permits it to turn around inside a boxcar. Yet it is strong enough to perform many of the tasks often handled by machines twice as large.

The 4-wheel drive on the Bobcat has dust free units sealed in oil. There are no transmissions or differentials. There are double-acting lift and tilt hydraulic cylinders to control the load.

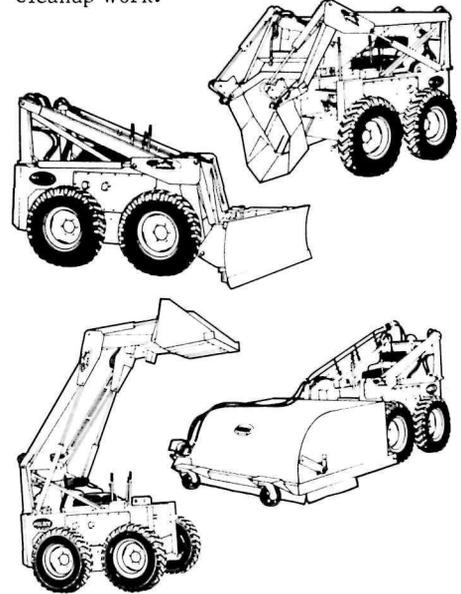
Elimination of hand labor is the outstanding feature of the compact, powerful little machine which has been accepted by the Government for use by the Park Service and Job Corps as well as the Forest Service.

This is the only front-loader we've seen that will dump a load over the top

of a 8-foot wall yet is compact enough to fit into a 1/4-ton pickup truck.

Attachments for the Bobcat include a tree-digger, snow plows, sweepers, post hole auger, pallet fork, backhoe, manure fork, tamper, and post driver.

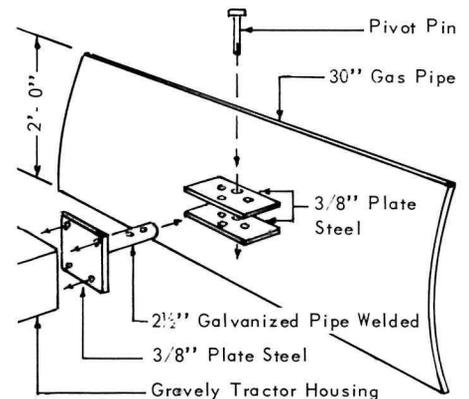
Some park operations for which the Bobcat has special adaptability include foot trail construction, sidewalk building, road work, excavation, tree planting and removal, masonry hauling and general cleanup work.



For additional information you can contact the William F. Drake Company, 1500 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, which represents the Melroe Manufacturing Company.

SIMPLE SNOW PLOW BLADE AND MOUNT

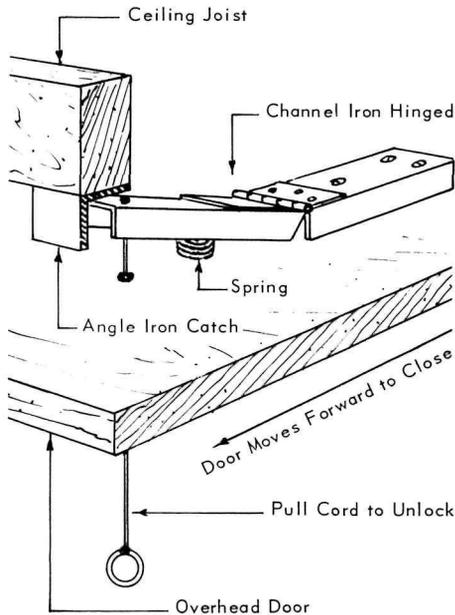
Roy Kern and Clare Chambers of Proud Lake State Park, Michigan, worked up the simple snow plow blade and mount shown in the sketch. The blade is designed to fit the housing of a Gravelly Tractor, but could be modified to fit others.



The blade is a section of 30" gas pipe which is 3/8" plate steel. Fittings are welded on. Note the placement of holes, permitting the blade to be pivoted around to desired angle, right or left by changing position of a lock pin or bolt.

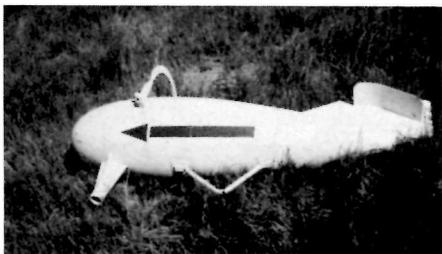
ANTI-BOP CATCH ON OVERHEAD DOOR

If that overhead door is closely balanced and comes down easily, better protect your head from being bopped (or the car from being dented) by installing a safety catch. One of the simplest we have seen was designed by Tom Gregg, Park Manager at Tahquamenon Falls State Park, Michigan. The sketch pretty well tells the story.



A hinged section of channel iron (or you could use aluminum) is mounted on the door near the bottom. A compression coil spring is fastened under the hinged section so that it will pop up slightly unless pressed or pulled down. On the upper door frame where this channel iron will pass, a small piece of angle iron (or aluminum) is mounted so that it will catch the spring-raised channel when the door is all the way up. A cord, passed through a hole in the door, is fastened to the hinged section of channel. This cord must be pulled to release the door before it is pulled down.

SURPLUS FLOATS MAKE FINE BUOYS



Government surplus floats make very good guide buoys, says Edward J. Fahey, Senior Park Manager, Southwest, Colorado Game Fish and Parks Department. The pipe which you see in the photograph will hold a pole for flag or directional sign.

CROWLEY "SAND TABLE" GRILL

Allen E. Crowley, District Supervisor, Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials has developed a revolutionary new type of grill for picnic areas and campgrounds. Pointing out that it is relatively inexpensive to manufacture, is long-lasting and requires little or no maintenance, this handsome appearing, practical grill will fit into most visitor use environments.



As the photographs show, a 5-inch reinforced concrete pedestal (which can be installed waist high or lower) supports a 36-inch square table, the center of which is a hollow circle, 27 inches in diameter with the bottom sloping 8 1/2 inches toward the center over the pedestal. A drain hole at the bottom center carries off rain water, and the interior is lined with fire clay.

Approximately 8 inches of industrial slag is placed above the fire clay inside, and this is covered with 2 inches of loose sand. The cooking fire (which may later serve as an evening campfire, if desired) is built by the camper or picnicker on this sand.

The removable circular grill, placed above and around the fire area, is made of 35 ga. steel or can be cut from a 55-gallon steel drum. The upper end of this steel ring, approximately 7 1/2 inches wide (high), is overlaid with expanded metal cut circular and welded in place. A hole with a 5-inch radius is cut in the bottom edge of the ring to control draft, and two steel handles are welded to the sides. The grill is affixed to the pedestal table by means of a short length of chain, preventing theft yet permitting removal of the grill ring when an open fire is desired.

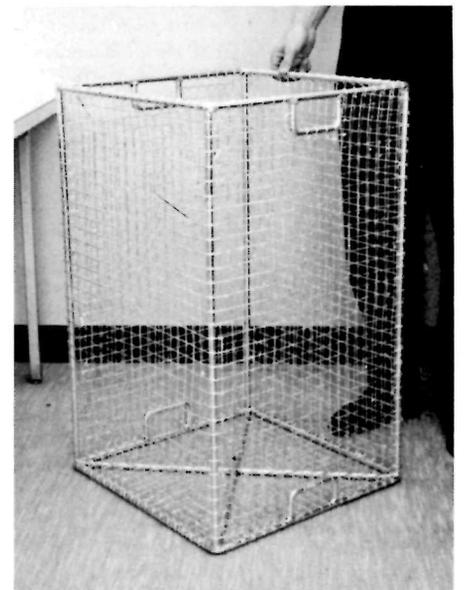
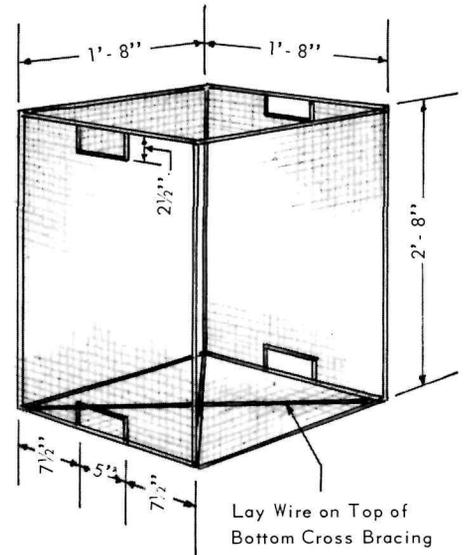
The edges of the table outside the sand ring afford ample space for cooking utensils.

Allen has a patent on this clever outdoor cooking device. Those wishing further information, or the forms for casting these "sand table" grills, should contact Allen E. Crowley, 2155 Waldemere St., Sarasota, Florida.

WIRE WASTE BASKET

Prison labor made the trash basket shown here at a cost of approximately \$6.50. Similar commercially made baskets cost \$15 to \$18.

W. W. Danyluk, Director of Parks, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, has provided GRIST with the photograph, sketch, and material specifications.



2 pieces 1/2"x7' mild steel, top & bottom
4 pieces 1/2"x2'8" mild steel, sides
1 piece 1/2"x2'4" mild steel, cross bracing
2 pieces 1/2"x1'2" mild steel, cross bracing
4 pieces 1/2"x10" mild steel handles
1 piece 2'1"x2'1" - 1"x1", 16 ga. wire (bottom)
1 piece 3'0"x3'0" - 1"x1", 16 ga. wire (sides)

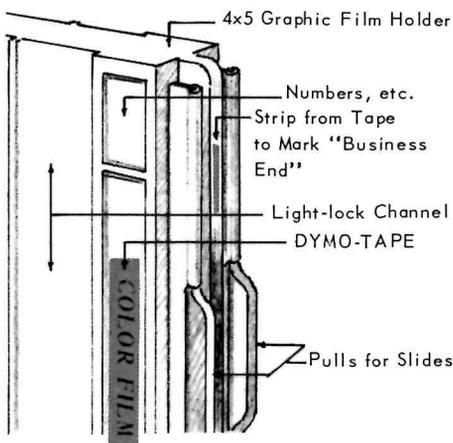
The baskets, which are hot dip galvanized after fabrication, weigh twenty-eight pounds.

Speaking of Interpretation -

HOW TO END FILM CONFUSION

At Wupatki National Monument they use one 4x5 camera for a number of purposes and therefore keep film holders loaded with both color and black and white films. This resulted in the occasional mistaken use of expensive color film when only black and white was intended.

Don P. Morris, Archeologist, found a way to end the confusion by using a label maker and brightly colored embossing tape trimmed to fit the space on the film holder as shown in the sketch. The tape can be removed easily if desired, the marking does not interfere with use of the holder, and the white tabs provided on the holder can be used for other useful information.



Using the sliver of tape trimmed from the marking strip, Don provided further warning that color film was in the holder by placing it at the "business end" on the ridge between slides.

DUST-FREE SLIDES OUTDOORS

When using the Kodak Carousel projector, especially out-of-doors, try putting the top of the carrying carton for the slide trays upside down over the drum to serve as a dust protector.

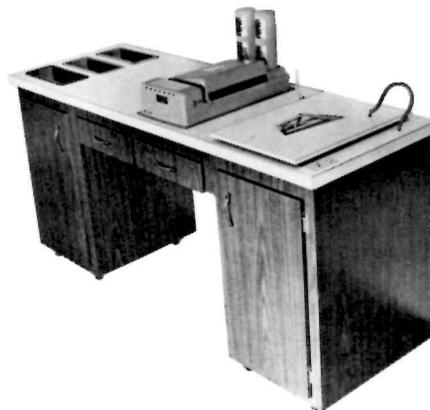
Warren H. Hill, Park Naturalist, Great Sand Dunes National Monument, has used this method for two summers and finds his slides much freer of dust. Warren says there is a side benefit, too, as the cover causes a slight preheating of the slides so that they are less likely to pop in and out of focus while being shown.

"INSTAPLATE DEPARTMENT"

The Metalphoto Corporation has just developed a new device which they call "InstaPlate Department." This unit will produce a Metalphoto plate in only six minutes, forty four seconds from negative to the first Metalphoto label. 6000 square inches of Metalphoto are now possible in one hour.

The unit is a compact, self contained, completely integrated processing department only slightly larger than an office desk. Measuring only 6 feet long, 24 inches wide and 34 inches high, the new InstaPlate Department saves valuable floor space. It has a stain resistance finish and is mounted on casters for easy moving to any section of an office.

Metalphoto signs are practically inde-



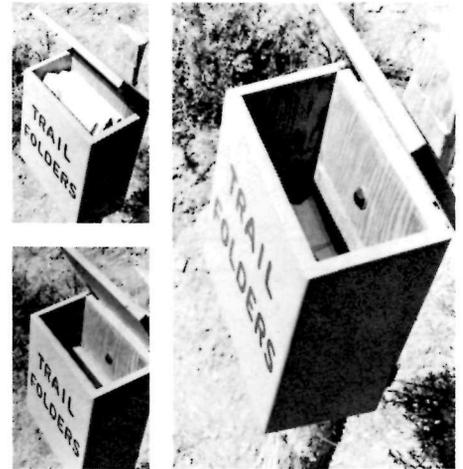
structible. The image is locked in a sapphire hard surface and because it is a photographic process, lines are sharp and clean. The legend on these plates can be seen clearly from a greater distance than those produced by former methods.

Metalphoto signs are used by parks from coast to coast and have been so well received by the National Park Service that new trainees coming into the Service are trained in their use and various applications at both the Horace M. Albright Training Center, at Grand Canyon and the Stephen T. Mather Interpretive Training and Research Center at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

For additional information on this InstaPlate machine or Metalphoto plates, contact Emil J. Passmann, MacIntosh & Sheridan, Inc., 4211 - 39th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016.

EVER-READY SUPPLY OF TRAIL FOLDERS

Visitors can be spared the disappointment of opening a leaflet box of a self-guided trail only to find it empty. Derek O. Hambly, Chief Park Naturalist, Colorado National Monument, has had boxes in that



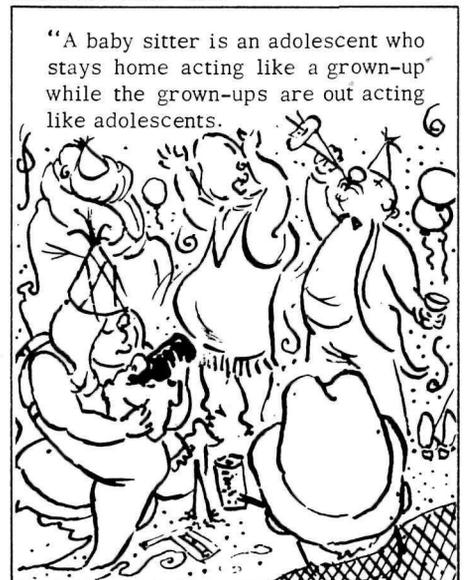
park built with false bottoms, as shown here.

The boxes can be checked on routine patrol and, if empty, refilled from the supply below the false bottom. The reserve supply can then be replenished at a convenient time.

Another advantage of this type of box is that there is less waste of folders when fewer are out where they are subject to handling.

Many trail boxes now in use could easily be modified to provide such a compartment for a standby supply of folders.

RANGER 'RED' sez:-



"A baby sitter is an adolescent who stays home acting like a grown-up" while the grown-ups are out acting like adolescents.