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New Gadgets Put
Patent Office Far
Behind in Work

By DOUGLAS LARSEN
NEA Staff Correspondent
WASHINGTON — Peace has diverted the concentrated efforts of U. S. inventors from swords to suitcases with wheels.

And the switch from wrinkles for war to contraptions for comfort has been carried out with such enthusiasm since V-J Day that the U. S. Patent Office has been thrown two years behind in its work.

If it is true that Russia is raiding American patents, as home Congressmen claim, the Russian people are in for a new revolution—one which should end with them all making borscht in new fangled pressure cookers and sleeping out frigid Moscow nights under thermostatically controlled electric blankets.

Gadgets and inventions dealing with "music, acoustics, glass, buttons, furniture, clasps, sound recordings, toys, games, umbrellas and canes, kitchen and table articles, toilet goods, education, cutlery, and flexible panels and partitions" are included in the Patent Office's three top groups of applications.

Patent Office Swamped
Although the Patent Office is granting an average of 400 patents a week to inventors, there is still a backlog of about 132,500 applications awaiting action. Details of patents—and this applies to most applications made since the war—are not revealed until the patent is formally registered.

In the scientific field a majority of applications for patents now deal with chemistry and electronics. Most of these are for some peace-time application of a military discovery or device.

The "Official Gazette" of the Patent Office, published every week, reveals the latest list of patents which have been granted to inventors. The current issue tells of a "plant patent" granted for an apple tree, to a California man. According to the patent this tree produces apples "the size of a Northfield, with transparent skin which glows with the color of the pink flesh beneath."

Another patent just granted is for a tooth brush with the tooth paste in the handle. It automatically squeezes into the brush while you use it. There is a suitcase with wheels; a cuff that covers baby's hand to stop thumb sucking; a bottle holder device for baby carriages; an ice cube tray which is guaranteed to take the profanity out of getting ice from the refrigerator.

Did you ever notice how the back of women's stockings get splashed when they walk on wet sidewalks? You glanced down by accident, of course. Well, a tiny mud guard gadget which fastens around the heel of the shoe has been patented to stop this. It can be slipped on when things get damp outside.

Russia Taps Ideas
Law requires the Patent Office to sell copies of registered patents to anyone who wants to buy them. The current price is 25 cents. Rep. J. Parnell Thomas of New Jersey, chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee, charges that because of this law Russia has been "tapping the inventive genius of America's industrial and military brains" by buying up copies of all registered patents. So far,

There'll Be Some Changes Made



It takes a big sheet of paper to list all the organization of federal executive departments and agencies. Democratic Sen. Harry F. Byrd, of Virginia, displays the list upon which his joint committee on reduction of non-essential federal expenditures is expected to wield the axe.

Eastern Starlet



Hollywood's first Chinese starlet since famed Anna May Wong is Maylia—real name Gloria Chin Fong—who'll be featured in "Assigned to Treasure," a film of the international dope racket. Two months ago she left her Detroit home for a Hollywood vacation, won her film role and met Benson Fong, young Chinese actor whom she recently married in Las Vegas, Nev.

nothing has been done to change this law, however.

The Patent Office explains that one of the reasons for the two-year backlog, in addition to the increased number of applications, is because so many of its expert "searchers" left during the war and never returned. Each application requires a "search" through all other related patents to make sure it doesn't infringe on one already granted. It takes an experienced expert to do a good job of this.

In 1945, a total of 31,033 patents were granted. Last year it dropped to 27,587. This year, patent officials hope, the figure should be somewhere between the two. The last Patent Office budget was for \$7,579,000. For the coming fiscal year an additional \$2,000,000 is being asked so that a start can be made toward reducing the backlog.

The average truck in the United States pays nearly four times as much to state governments as the average passenger car in license fees, and twice as much in gasoline taxes.

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Easter Observed
By Church Groups

More than 75 devout worshippers greeted the Easter dawn Sunday at the First Christian Church, where services were held instead of on the hill east of Benson School.

The Rev. Kenneth Knox delivered the message of Christ's resurrection, and students of Roseburg High School led the sunrise song service.

By mid-morning, the gray clouds which overcast the skies had cleared away, and in the bright sunshine, church congregations throughout the city turned out in large throngs.

The traditional Easter parade of fashions was marked by women with their gay new hats and men garbed in new suits.

Several church choirs presented Easter cantatas last night. The theme of rejoicing brought to a close the annual, 40-day period of Lent.

Vital Statistics

MARRIAGE LICENSES
McANNINCH-CANSLER—William H. McAninch and Verna Lee Canler, both of Roseburg.

DIVORCE COMPLAINTS
PETERSON—Edna vs. Archie Louis Peterson; married at Kelso, Wash., Nov. 26, 1926; cruelty.

HIERONYMUS—Alma vs. Charles W. Hieronymus; married at Sweetwater, Texas, Oct. 18, 1940; cruelty.

PETETIT—R. A. vs. Anna Petetit; married 1940 at Cottage Grove, Ore.; cruelty.

Pallas Athena, Greek Goddess of Wisdom, kept ancient Troy from capture, according to Trojan legend, as long as the city retained her glistening white statue known as the Palladium.

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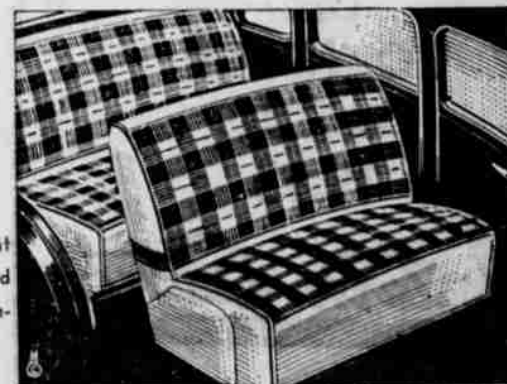
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