

Clothes hanger radio gets protection

Patent office adds 75,000 inventions in '77

WASHINGTON (AP) — A radio disguised as a clothes hanger and an electric cigarette holder for people who need to be shocked into kicking the habit were among the thousands of gimmicks and gadgets that received U.S. patents last year.

A total of 75,000 inventions were patented last year, but the Patent Office rejected about 25,000 other wild flashes of imagination.

Any potential marketer of the clothes hanger-radio presumably would have to aim for a rather unusual market — people who want

music in the closet or those who don't mind walking around with clothes hangers held to their ears.

There were plenty of gadgets last year aimed at helping smokers stop smoking or at helping non-smokers stop breathing smokers' smoke.

The electric cigarette holder may have been the ultimate in aids for those who want to stop smoking. It is a tube connected to a six-to-nine volt battery. When the tub touches the lips — zap!

For those smokers whose smoke is annoying to the family or

office workers, patents were awarded for something called the Smoke Reducer for Cigarette Smokers, a gizmo about the size of a cigarette package that covers the lit end of the cigarette. Also, there is the Nicotine Removal Process for taking the nicotine out of tobacco.

A wide assortment of brainstorms is available for the aggressively lazy, such as No. 4,068,573, a Utensil for Cracking Eggs. The scissors-like gadget not only cracks the egg, it separates the yolk from the white.

And for the scientific mind in the

kitchen there is the Carrier for Articles Such as Eggs, a "two-hook shaped gripper" suitable for handling "an article having its longitudinal axis oriented substantially horizontally" — that means it's shaped like an egg.

How about a disposable chef's hat? Or the Automatic Baster? The latter item is a pan with a tube positioned above the item to be basted. Water drips from a "plurality of holes" in the tube.

And since there is already an abundance of dental hygiene instruments to brush, pick, spray and do about everything but pull

teeth or fill them, there obviously was the need for a new dentifrice. No. 4,066,745 has "visible bubbles of gas containing volatilized flavor material . . . of the diameter in the 1 to 4 millimeter range." Shelf life of the bubbly stuff is six months.

Meanwhile, bad news for the health insurance industry. Patented last year was a new game — Professional Malpractice Board Game Apparatus, complete with cards such as "Bad Services Rendered," "Jury Duty," "Retain Lawyer" and "Litigation Steps Plaintiff."

Feds finally put finger on fugitive

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — A mystery man arrested in a high speed chase punctuated by gunfire was identified by the FBI Thursday night as Ted Bundy, a former Washington state man on the FBI Most Wanted list.

The FBI said Bundy is wanted for questioning in 36 sex killings in the Rocky Mountains and western states.

The 31-year-old Bundy, arrested early Wednesday in this Gulf Coast community, was identified through fingerprint comparisons.

In a news release from Washington, D.C., acting FBI Director James B. Adams said the arrest was made by Pensacola police Officer David Lee.

The FBI said Lee saw what was termed a "suspicious" vehicle which he discovered was stolen. When he attempted to stop the car, it took off at a high rate of speed.

The fleeing car stopped eventually and Bundy got out and ran. Lee fired shots at him and Bundy fell to the ground. The FBI said Bundy was not hit by the gunfire.

Bundy initially identified himself as Kenneth Raymond Misner, then refused to identify himself further.

Even before he was identified as Bundy, the Pensacola prisoner was being questioned in the Jan. 15 clubbing deaths of two coeds at the Chi Omega sorority house at Florida State University in Tallahassee.

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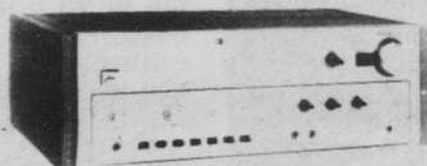
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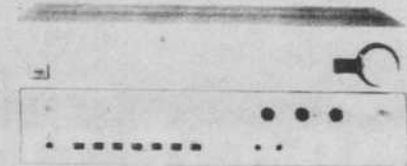
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