Nonskid Brake System For Autos Patented

Washington (Science Service) — A braking system for automobiles and trucks which goes on and off very rapidly when applied was among the 871 patents issued here this week.

The inventor, Burton S. Aikman of St. Petersburg, Fla., states that auto wheels tend to slide sideways when the brakes are applied on slippery surfaces. Various devices, his patent observes, have been proposed to combat this but these have mostly been complex and expensive.

Aikman was granted a patent for his "pulsating brake" and assigned it to Westinghouse Air Brake Company of Wilmerding, Pa.

The pulsating effect is obtained by subjecting a piston to a pulsating oil pressure to oppose the foot-allied pressure on a brake foot pedal. This pulsating oil pressure is provided by a rotary valve gear driven by the oil pump, which provides oil alternately under pump discharge pressure and under normal crank case pressure. The device may be connected or disconnected at will in response to the road conditions and is, the inventor claims, inexpensive both to make and to install.

A simple gadget which may protect from the miseries of sunburn next year won a patent for Stephen Promer of Staten Island, N. Y. After a few uncomplimentary remarks about suntan lotions in general, Mr. Promer describes his own device, essentially an exposure meter to tell you when you are "cooked". This is a card divided into a number of areas each of which is sensitized with photographic emulsion of the type that is used in "printing-out paper."

These areas are of different sensitivities so that they darken in the sun after different periods of time and one word is printed in the middle of each in a reducing agent so that the word only becomes visible as the paper darkens. A set of three might read mild, optimum and danger, or light, medium and dark for example.

Herbert H. Simhauser of Ravenna, Ohio, was awarded a patent for a "two-speed variable pitch outboard motor propeller in which the propeller blades automatically shift from a low pitch position at slow boat speeds to a high pitch position at higher speeds for maximum efficiency of the propeller."

Simshauser explains that the plugs of powerful motors quickup foul up with oil when run slowly for trolling. The trolling plates, attached behind the propeller to reduce its efficiency, are inconvenient to install and often lost overboard in the process, and the two-speed transmissions now on the market are both expensive and heavy. The pitch of the propeller is automatically changed by changes in the water pressure on the blades which in turn depend on the propeller's speed of rotation.

A means of packaging live fish and a children's merry-go-round powered by an electric fan also won patents here this week.

A patent was granted to George L. Thomas Jr. of Three Springs Fisheries, Lilypons, Md., for his simple and effective live fish package. This consists of a flexible, transparent plastic bag, of polyethylene for example, which is partially filled with water. One or more fish are introduced, the space above the water is filled with oxygen, and the bag is heat-sealed.

Dellis R. Forbush of Sandy, Utah, won a patent for his fan-driven merry - go - round with washing dryer. A strong column has four braced arms attached to the top such that they can all rotate as a unit. A number of wires interconnect the arms so that the whole unit looks like a modern clothesline of the collapsible variety.

An electric fan is mounted on the end of one arm so that it acts as a propeller and rotates the arms. A child's swing is suspended from each arm for use as a merry-go-round and these may be unhooked so that the round-about may be used to dry clothes more quickly.

Other patents issued this week include an automobile window ventilator which allows fresh air to enter the car but keeps out rain and snow both while moving and while locked up and parked, a means of preheating slides before they are projected so that they will not distort and destroy the focus while they are being viewed and a pressurized cable car for passengers who are over-sensitive to pressure changes on mountain railways.

Honduras, the Central American republic, ceased to be a colony of Spain in 1821.

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Primary Clue to Structure of Matter Found

Rochester, N. Y. (Science Service) — The shortest lifetime of an elementary particle-only a quarter of a millionth of a billionth of a second-gives a primary clue to the structure of matter.

This new figure, which links the nuclear mesons directly with the electromagnetic field for the first time, was reported to the tenth annual International Conference of High Energy Physics at the University of Rochester here by Dr. A. V. Tollestrup of California Institute of Technology.

The fleeting lifetime was found by Dr. Tollestrup and his co-workers and by Dr. R. G. Glasser and his group at the Naval Research laboratory in Washington. The scientists examined photographic emulsions to find the tracks necessary to measure the lifetime of the neutral pi-meson. The emulsions were exposed to beams of K-particles in the giant six-billion-electrom-volt atom smasher at the University of California at Berkeley.

Disintegrating atoms leave their tracks in the emulsions, and scientists glean much of their information about nuclear structure by studying these tracks.

The lifetime of nuclear particles is one of their principle properties.

Pi-mesons as a separate class of nuclear particles were first suggested in 1948, and the first examples were spotted exceptionally within two weeks. Besides a positive and negative pi-meson, scientists have known for about ten years of the neutral pi-meson and have been trying to pin down its lifetime.

The new measurement gives theoretical physicists a new universal constant, and now they must figure out why it exists and relate it to another constant. When the neutral pi-meson breaks up or decays, two photons of light are produced. These photons, or gamma rays, are purely electromagnetic in character.

Thus the new measurement links mesons and the electromagnetic field for the first time.

The neutral pi-meson is the only one of the 30 particles now known to break up in this fashion. Its lifetime is also shorter by a factor of a million than any of the other known particles.

The possible existence of another new particle called "D" for Duna where it was first spotted by the Russians was being debated by physicists here. Only four possible examples have so far been found, so its status as a particle is rather shaky.

In fact some physicists suggest the "D" should stand for "Dubion," to symbolize its dubiousness.

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Dynamite Victims Remain Critical

The Dalles — 8PB — Danny Hulse, 10, and his brother, Davie, 7, remained in critical condition in a hospital here today after a dynamite cap explosion ripped their hands and faces at Dufur Monday.

Danny, son of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Hulse of Dufur, was reported to have lost both eyes and one hand. Davis was reported to have lost one eye.

Police said the boys apparently found the dynamite caps while playing in a shed on an abandoned farm near Dufur. Police said they did not know how the boys exploded the caps.

Rolling Log Kills Sheridan Worker

McMinnville — 8PB — Lawrence Good, 58, Sheridan, died Tuesday from inuries suffered in a logging accident earlier in the day 20 miles west of the community of Carlton in Tillamook county.

Good died within an hour after being rushed to the hospital.

Fred Simonson, senior partner in Simonson Bros. Logging Co., said Good, an employee of the firm, was killed when a dislodged log rolled down a hill and crushed him.

Roseburg Youngster Shot by Brother

Roseburg — 8PB — A 2-year-old boy shot in both arms by his 4-year-old brother was reported in good condition here today.

Ricky Ouellette was treated and dismissed from the hospital after a bullet from a .38 caliber revolver passed through his right forearm and his upper left arm Monday.

Officers said the accident occurred when Ricky's brother, Gordon, found a gun kept in the home for protection.