

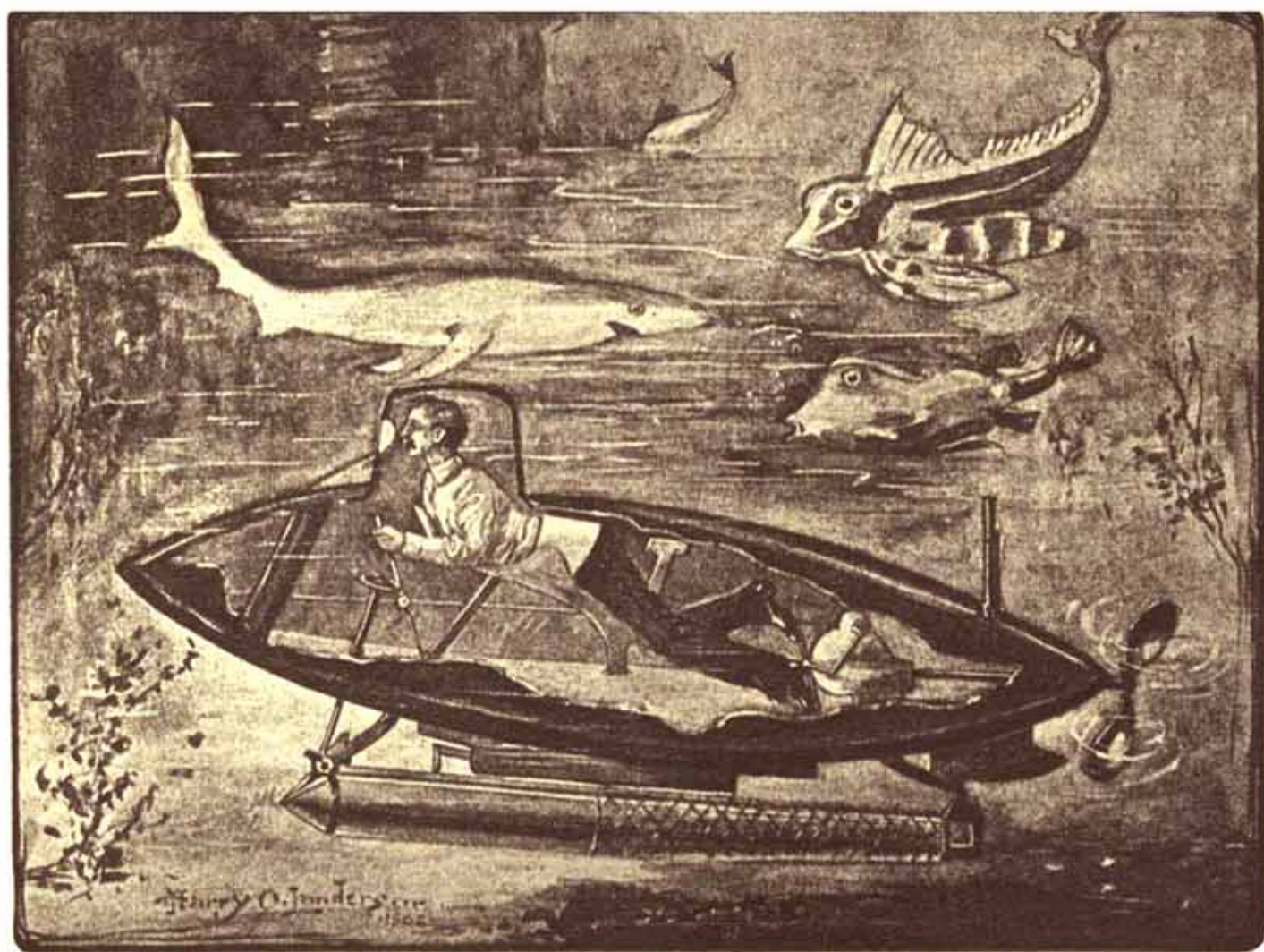
PAGEANT

May, 1952

Half a Century Of Popular Mechanics

■ FOR 50 YEARS, *Popular Mechanics* has been Bible and Baedeker for craftsmen and the mechanically-minded. In fresh, simple, pictorial fashion it has chronicled the technological miracles of the 20th century, from gadgets like self-tipping hats to the revolution of nuclear energy. Now in one volume, "50 Years of Popular Mechanics" (Simon and Schuster), the editors of the magazine have assembled a picture history of the inventiveness which rocketed the USA from the horse-and-buggy to the atomic age. Here are samples of both the frivolous and fabulous.

TINY TORPEDO BOAT ALARMS NAVIES



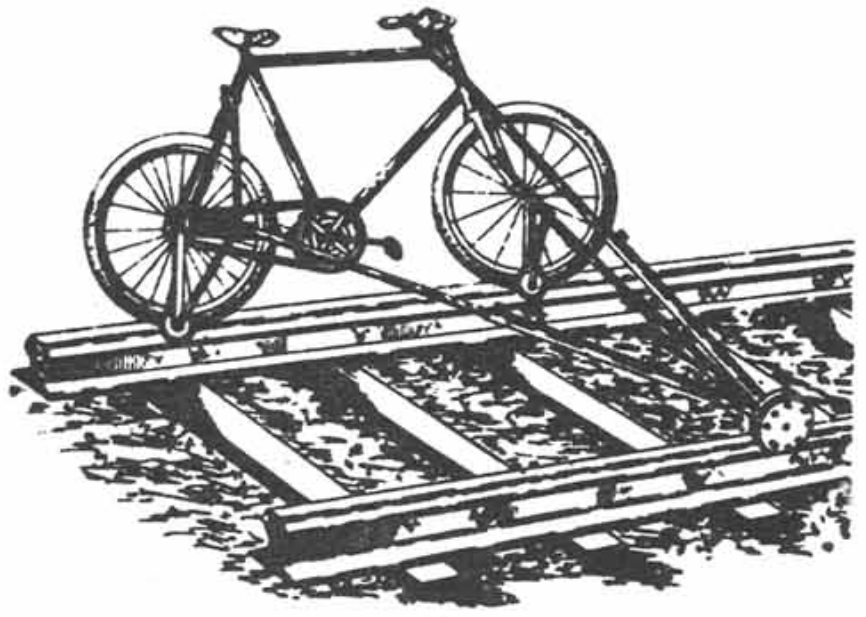
1902—"A new terror of the deep has made its appearance in the form of a tiny torpedo boat, only 11 feet long, built for one man only." There is no

record, however, that this "terror" ever terrorized anyone, except perhaps its operator. The first submarine actually was built in England in 1620.

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**ONLY ONE PAIR OF THESE
SHOES EVER MADE**

"A style of footgear unlike anything ever worn before in the history of the world has just appeared in the shape of '20 strap' sandals, a pair of which were made especially for Anna Held and cost \$50."



RAILWAY BICYCLE

Bicycles like this were in wide use for several years. They were fine for cross-country jaunts, but their presence on the right-of-way made railroadmen nervous and the vehicles were finally banned. Said the inventor: "The machine is capable of very high speed and, being light, can be instantly removed from a track upon the unexpected approach of a train."

**Wonderful Combination
Table Has Appeared**

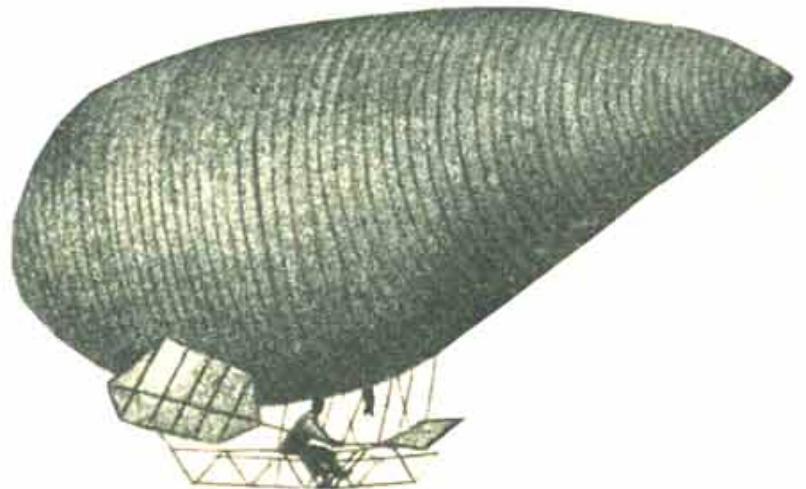
Billiards was a popular pastime of the first decade of the 1900's. Since public billiard parlors often were in the back rooms of saloons, manufacturers based advertising of home tables on such appeals as "My boy is home nights now," adding "When the family has religious visitors, the oak top is allowed to remain over the cushion."



THE AERIAL ROWBOAT

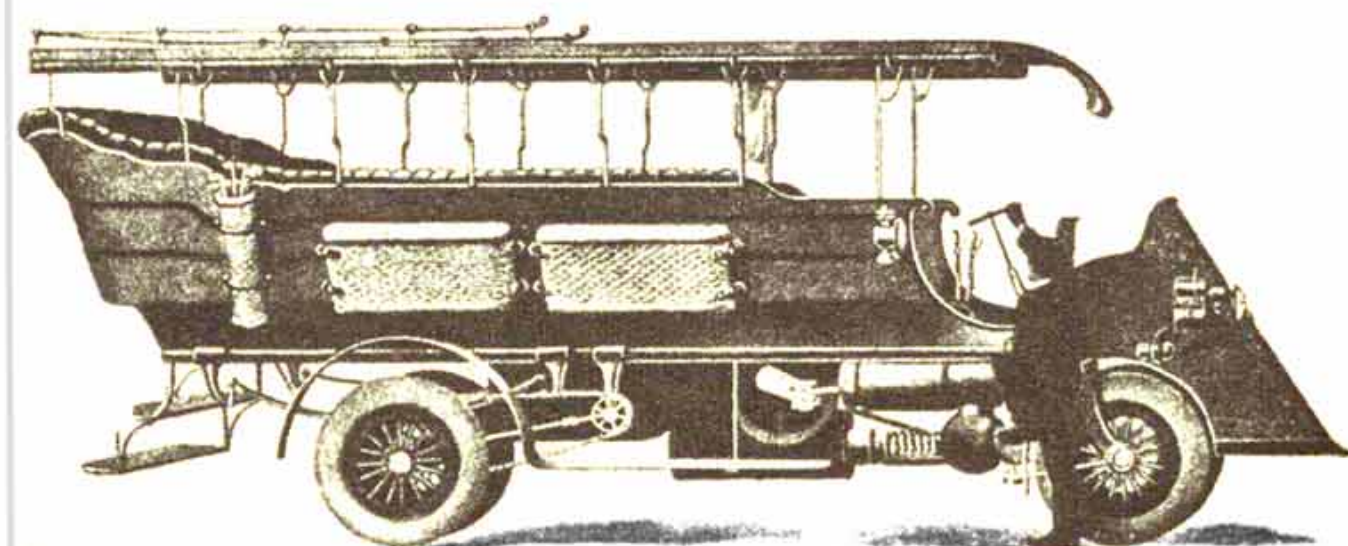
New Air Boat Propelled by Oars which Imitate Motion of a Bird

1906—Said the inventor: "My gas bag is ovoid in form; this is not a matter of taste, but means that it will always go *big end first*. It is this feature that renders my machine self-dirigible and self-balanced and is one reason why it requires no rudder." He called it "Man-Angel."



Largest Automobile in the World

Has 400 Horsepower -- Is Expected To Run 100 Miles An Hour -- Cost \$35,000.



1904—"This machine will accommodate 10 persons with separate sleeping apartments for long distance trips, besides which they may have their meals served in the vehicle, as it is provided

with a kitchen and dining room." With a 400-horsepower motor, it could go 100 m.p.h.—if it hung together and stayed on the road. Editors were pleading for a "\$500 car."



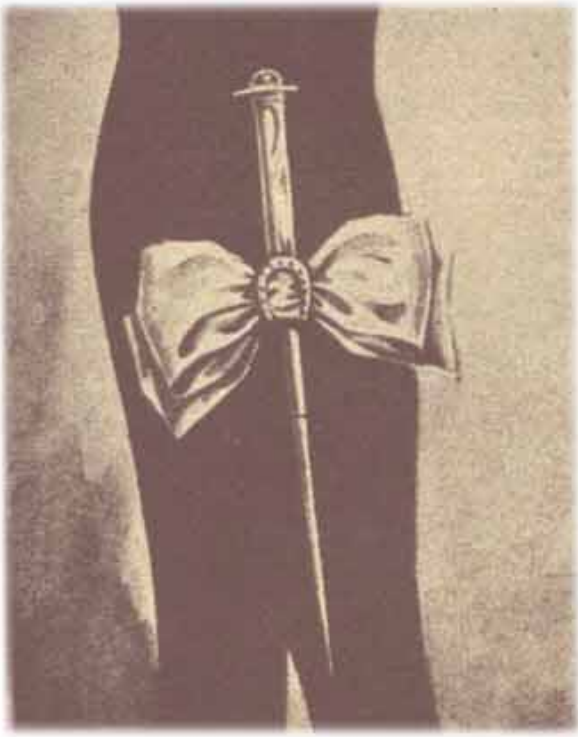
PHOTOGRAPHS ON FINGER NAILS

"The latest London fad is to have the portrait of a lover or favorite relative photographed on a finger nail. Young brides select the nail of the wedding ring finger."



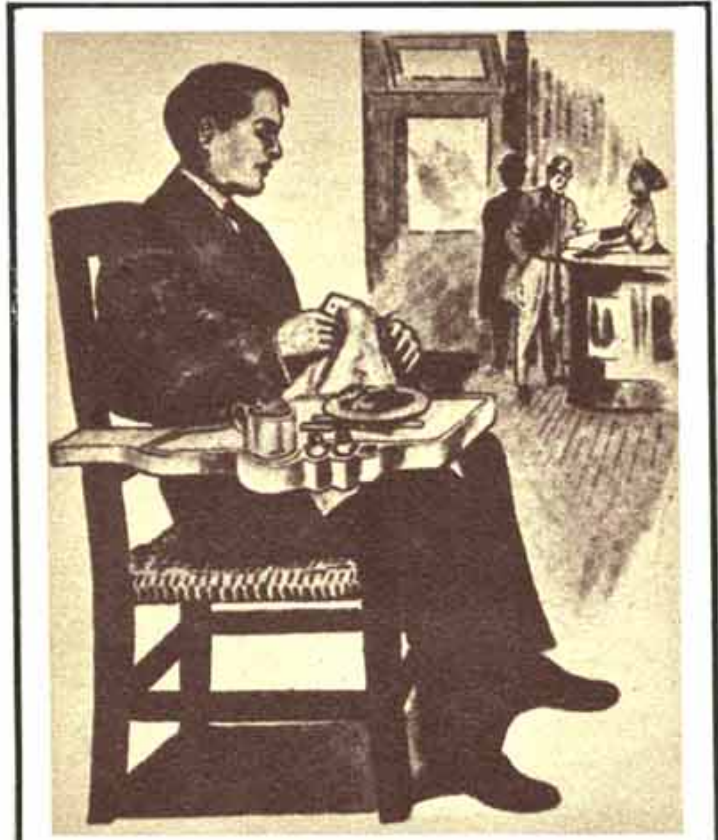
THREE-HANDED SHOP LIFTERS

1908—"The most successful of all shoplifting tricks is the false arm and hand. While the shoplifter's hands are apparently in sight of the store clerks, one is at work stowing away articles. The false hand is, of course, gloved and thrust through one of the sleeves. The real hand works under cover of the coat."



GARTER STILETTO WOMAN'S NEWEST PROTECTOR

1911—"Deprived of pockets in which she might carry firearms, and required by public sentiment to use weapons more subtle than the club or sword, the woman of fashion has added the garter stiletto to the ever-useful hatpin as a protective device. This new weapon fits into a sheath attached to her garter . . . can be wielded with deadly effect."



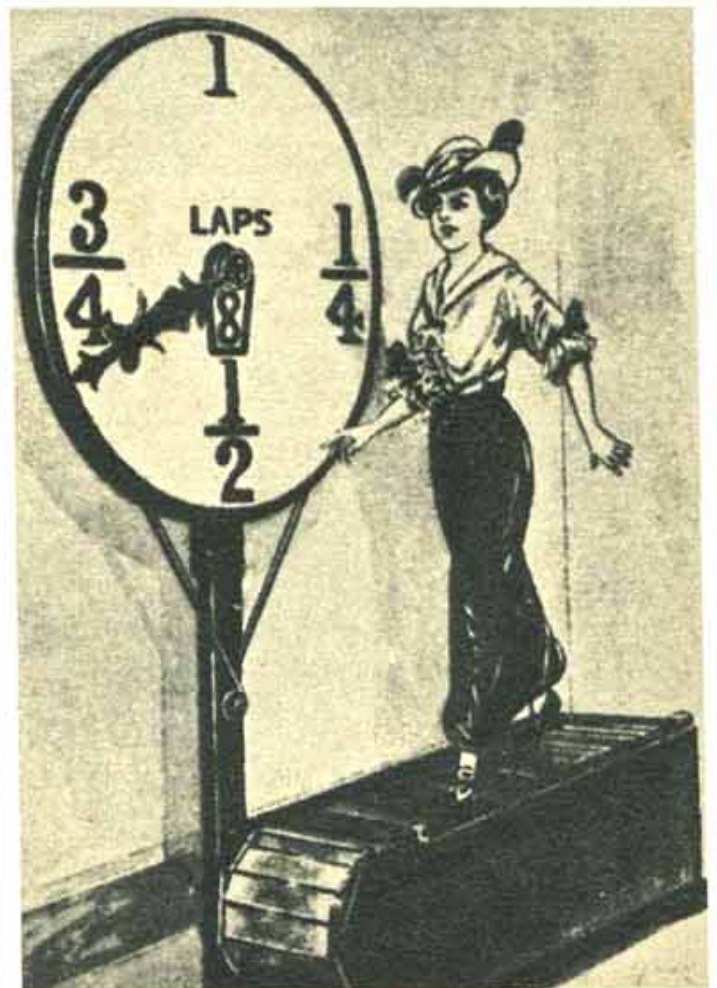
NEW CHAIR FOR ARM-CHAIR LUNCHROOMS

The one-armed lunch, once to be found in every sizable city of America, is now largely a thing of the past.

TO ELIMINATE THE POSTAGE STAMP

WALKING MACHINE FOR DESIGNED INDOOR EXERCISE

1915—"To make it possible to take long walks even on unpleasant days, a treadmill walking machine has been constructed for a prima donna who carries out a daily program of exercises in an attempt to ward off obesity. Attached is a meter which enables her to keep account of the distance walked."





A THEORY BECOMES A FACT

1912—Airbombing had been tried by the Italians at Tripoli in 1907, but the bombs were simply cans of nitroglycerine, as dangerous to the pilot as enemy. This

bombing of Turkish troops and Arabs by Italian aviators, was the first use of the more predictable bombs—equipped with fuses and safety devices.

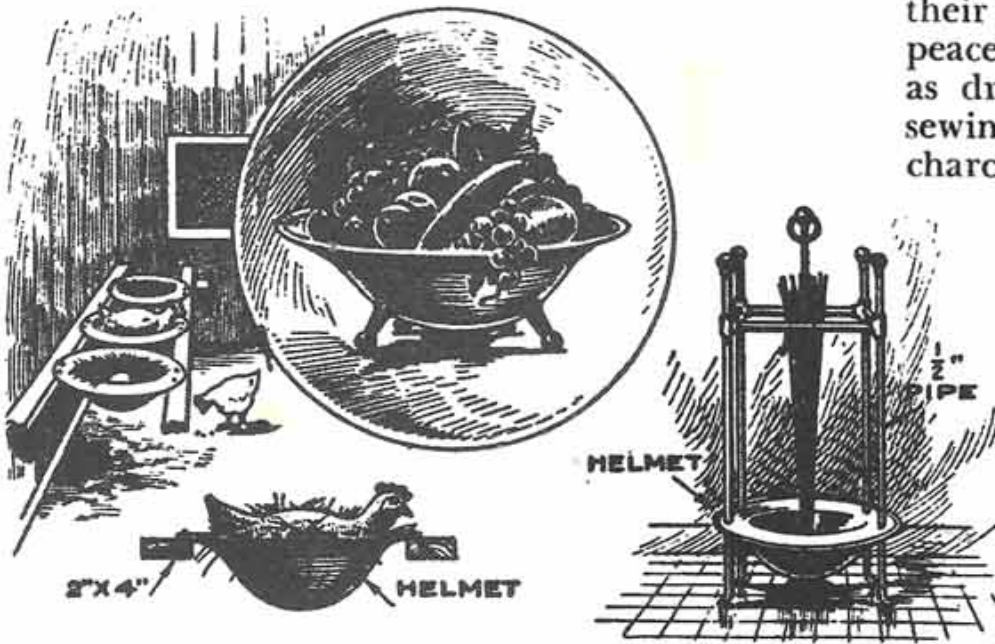


ELECTRIC PRESSURE COOKER REPLACES STOVE COOKING

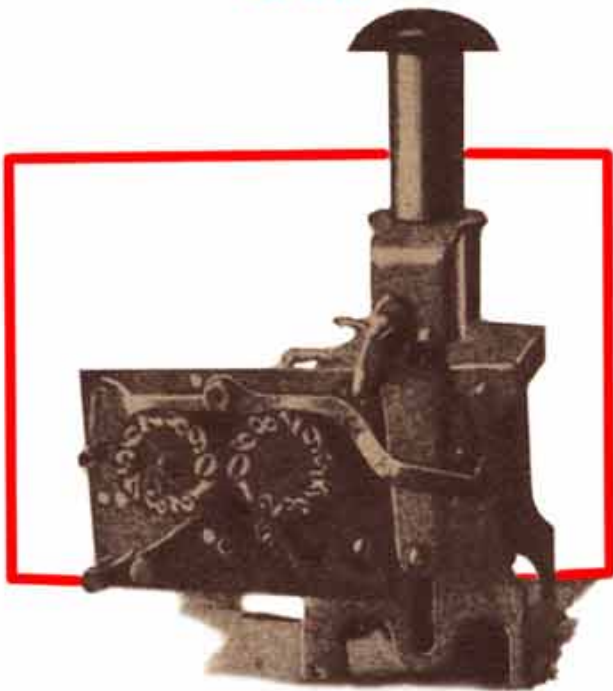
1922—After the war, a flood of new inventions burst the bounds of material and labor shortages. The pressure cooker caught on almost immediately, while the dishwashing machine had to await further refinements.

Fruit Dish, Poultry Nest and Umbrella Stand Made from Helmets

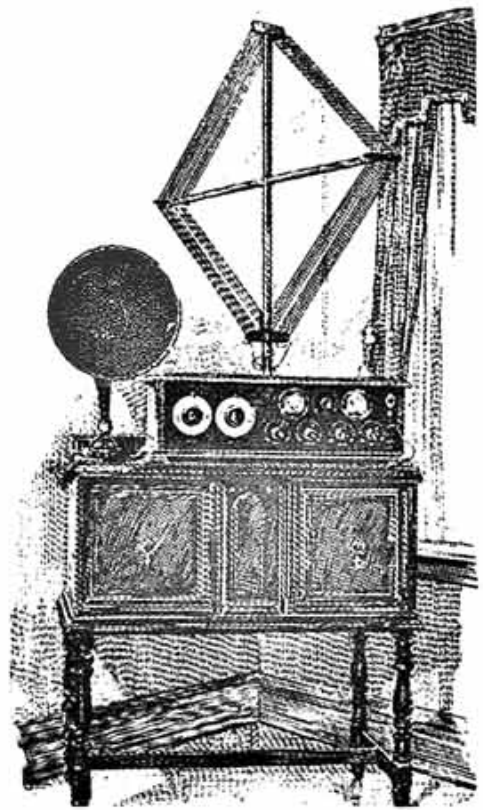
1922—*Popular Mechanics* sponsored a contest among its veteran readers for the best ways to utilize their trench helmets in peace. Some other uses: as drinking fountains, sewing stands, as a charcoal brazier.



TO ELIMINATE THE POSTAGE STAMP

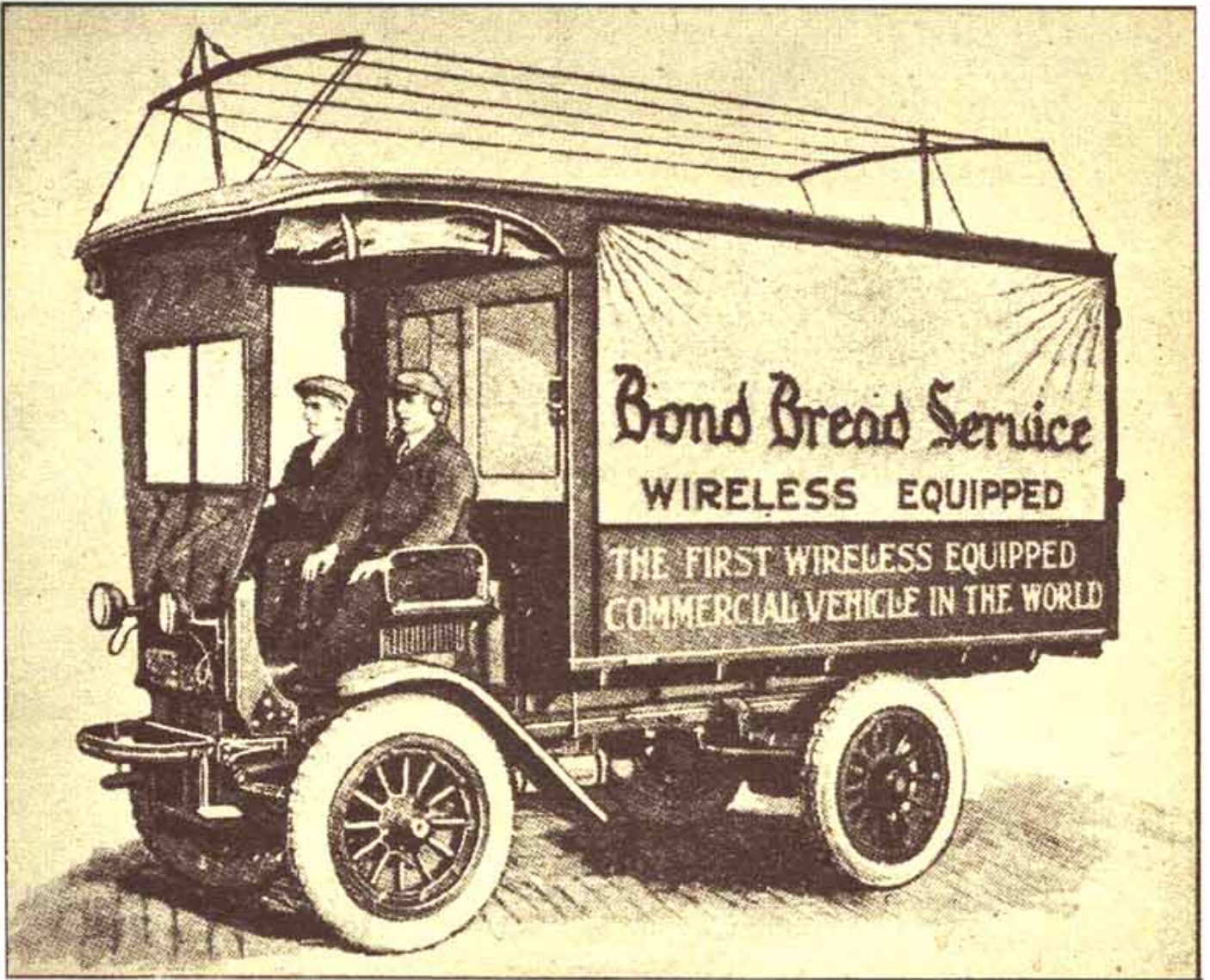


This little machine did not eliminate the postage stamp, but one prophecy of the editors came true: The postage meter today is a tremendous timesaver for an company handling large mailings.



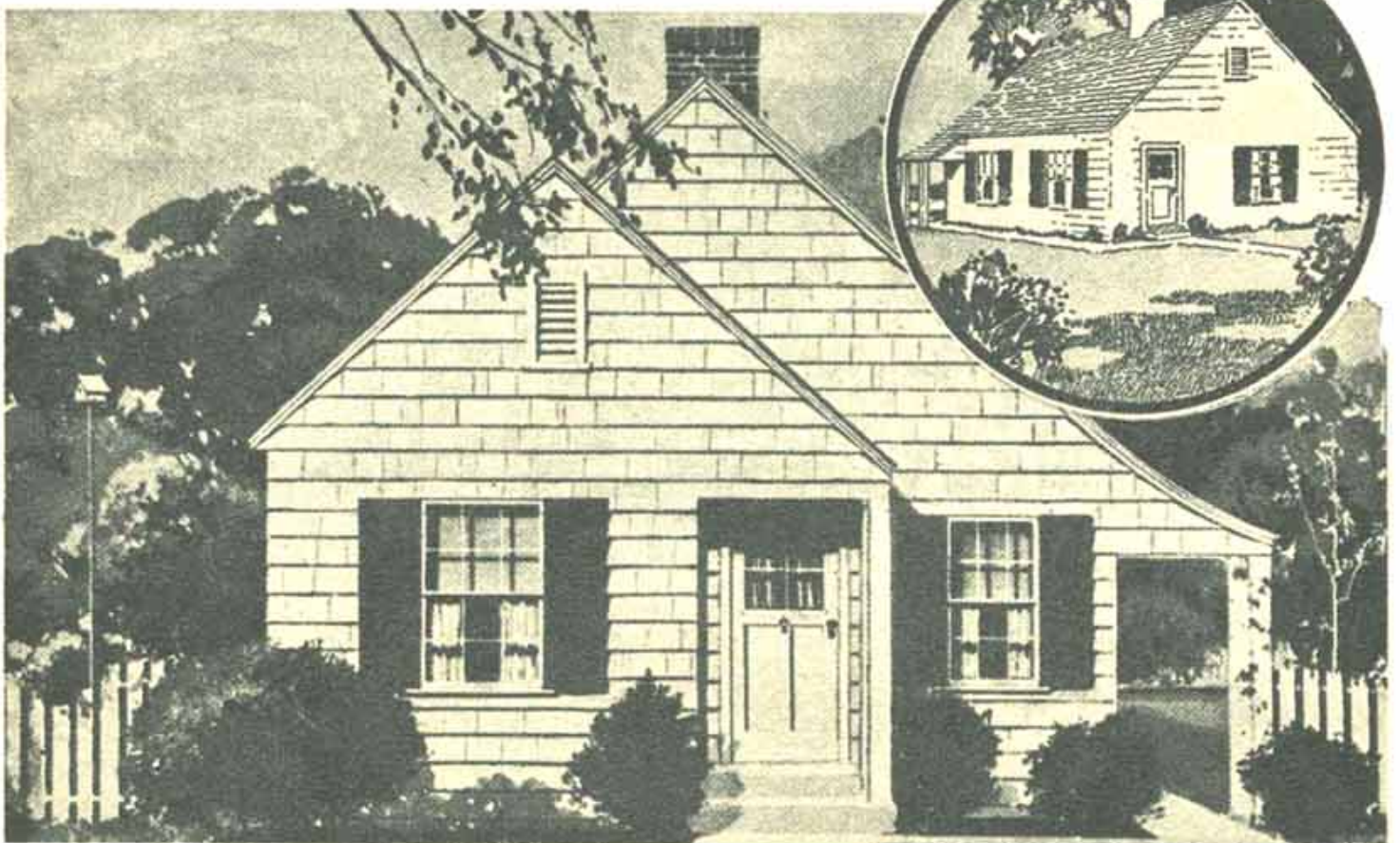
***How to Build
the Popular Mechanics'
Superheterodyne Eight***

1926—One of the most popular build-it-yourself radio sets which *Popular Mechanics* was to offer its readers. The superheterodyne circuit was a great forward step, making possible marked increases in sensitivity and volume. Note the *seven* controls, not including the on-off switch, which had to be used in the tuning.



FIRST COMMERCIAL VEHICLES USING RADIO EQUIPMENT

1923—First known commercial use of radio communication to a mobile station. Today, two-way radio telephone systems are used by every police force.



1933—The magazine's blueprint department still receives requests for plans for this house. The original plans called for a roof of wooden shingles, which are now

prohibited by building codes and fire laws in most cities. In its day, however the house was sound and comfortable and was built by many readers.



1950—MIRACLES YOU'LL SEE IN THE NEXT 50 YEARS

In 2000 A.D., rocket passengers may arch through space from New York to San Francisco in less than two hours. Other miracles predicted in an article by Walde-

mar Kaempffert, science editor of *The New York Times*—food from sawdust, shopping by picture-phone, cooking on solar ranges, shaving by chemicals.

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