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MAKES PLASTIC DETECTABLE

New chemical boon for X-ray technology

by **ROBIN LUDLOW**
 Southam News
DALLAS — Plastic guns will soon show up on airport X-ray machines and doctors will be able to spot swallowed plastic toy parts in children because of a newly discovered chemical.
 The inability of X-rays to "see" plastic has long been a problem for doctors and more recently for airport security.

But the new additive, mixed with plastic during manufacture, will go a long way toward solving those problems, the American Chemical Society heard Tuesday.
 "The possibilities are tremendous," said chemist Dr. Johannes Smid who, with colleagues at the State University of New York in Syracuse, developed the compound called triphenylbismuth.
 It makes plastic more visible

than aluminum to X-rays so plastic weapons, swallowed fragments of plastic dentures and toys, and objects that can cause problems in the body — plastic bullets, catheters, implants, bone adhesives, sutures and artificial veins — will all be easily detected, Smid said.
 Plastic implants can slip out of place or degenerate and up to now, surgery has been the only recourse to pinpoint a problem.

The new additive mixes perfectly and permanently with a wide variety of commercial plastics, Smid said.
 It doesn't break down with heat, is not affected by water, doesn't cause cancer, serves as a flame retardant and also helps kill bacteria and fungus.
 Smid said it could also be added to paints used in hospitals, for example, to prevent the growth and

spread of bacteria and fungi.
 Previous experimental X-ray contrast additives such as glass, heavy metal salts and other chemicals did not mix properly and produced an inferior plastic, Smid said.
 The chemical wouldn't be needed in all plastics but would be welcome in medical and dental devices and could be required by law in plastic guns, bullets and knives.

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Use sought for salvaged locomotive

VANCOUVER (CP) — Logging contractor Steve Crombie used empty diesel fuel tanks to raise a submerged 180-tonne diesel-electric locomotive from the bottom of Seton Lake.
 The question now for Crombie is what to do with it.
 Its previous owner, BC Rail, doesn't want it.
 And Crombie's wife Mary says: "I have jokingly called it Crombie's folly. Maybe Steve will sell it for spares or for scrap."
 The locomotive and a sister unit plunged into Seton Lake near Lillooet, about 160 kilometres northwest of Vancouver, after running into a rockfall on BC Rail's mainline in 1980.
 One locomotive was raised by the railway in May 1981, overhauled and returned to service.
 But the second unit, which was in 50 metres of water, could not be raised because it hit a submerged tip of rock.
 Railway president Mac Norris said the company surrendered its interest in the unit in the lake.
 "It isn't so much the length of time it was in cold water that was the problem, but what happened to it, or didn't happen to it, after it was raised," Norris said.
 "You have to take prompt action after the air gets to it."
 Crombie started his salvage efforts in 1987, aided by his son Terry, a 22-year-old medical student. Both men had to buy diving equipment and learn to use it.
 "My husband was determined to succeed after somebody at the University of B.C. was quoted as saying that they wouldn't be able to bring it up with floats," said Mary Crombie.

Tie production set to begin at Squamish

VANCOUVER (CP) — Australian resources giant Broken Hill Pty. has established a small manufacturing plant north of Vancouver to produce steel railway ties for sale in North America.
 Production will start next week on an order for 45,000 ties from BC Rail, Fred Mau, president of BHP Rail Products (Canada) Ltd., said Wednesday.
 The plant, which has been under construction since June, is rated to 120,000 ties a year, but "we will comfortably exceed that capacity," Mau said.
 The plant was built at Squamish, about 55 kilometres north of Vancouver on the BC Rail line, because BC Rail, which is installing 100,000 steel ties on sharp curves and turnouts through its 2,200-kilometre system over the next five years, is BHP's launch customer in North America.
 Mau said other U.S. and Canadian railways have expressed an interest, including Canadian National and Quebec, North Shore and Labrador Railway in Eastern Canada.
 BC Rail began testing steel ties in 1984.

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WOODWARD'S CORRECTION

In Woodward's SHOWTIME flyer, Page 18, item F, Short Knit Gown should read Short, Regular \$22 SALE 15.99. Long Regular \$26. SALE 19.99. Page 20, items A,B,C,F,G and H and Page 21, items C,D,E,F,G and H will not be available due to shipping problems. Page 23, Children's Shoes at 4.99 will not be available. Page 24, item F, Mustang Cruiser Vest does not come with velcro flaps. Page 26, item F Boy's or Girl's 20" BMX Bike does not come with kickstand. Page 33, item F will not be available at Woodward's Penticton, Victoria, Coquitlam or Southgate stores due to shipping problems. Page 34, item A, 100% Cotton T Shirt is not as shown. Page 34, item B, Walking Shorts are cuffed. Page 45, 4 cu. ft. Wheelbarrow at 44.99 is not as shown, should read Broadcast Spreader SALE 49.99. Page 46, item A should read 'international' not 'professional' knives.

Woodward's apologizes to its customers for any inconvenience these errors may have caused.