

Eastern Shore Echo

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Remember the song "A Bicycle Built for Two"? Well, now a native of the Eastern Shore has an invention that may start a new song — "Peddling on in our Ped-1-on."

"The thought of families enjoying recreation together, at the same time overcoming the energy & fuel crunch, excited me while I was designing this quadracycle," said inventor-designer Roddy Malay of Maley Falls, Halifax County.

The Nova Scotia born design-engineer continued, "not only will the Ped-1-on enable families to conserve fuel, but perhaps more important, the Ped-1-on will provide the means to have fun together, doing easy recreational exercise."

The Ped-1-on, now designed for two people to ride, may be designed in the future for four or even eight. But, in any case, says Mr. Malay, the participants will be using their leisure time for meaningful exercise.

Show during the Canadian sporting equipment exhibition in Montreal late in January, the interest stimulated was so great that designer Malay stated that he had one distributor interested in ordering 1000 if production were reliable over the next six months. At present Mr. Malay has orders for 1200 of the pedal-type vehicles.

The Ped-1-on, weighing 95 pounds, is light enough that it can be easily lifted into a trailer or truck by two teenagers. The lightweight two seater has a molded fiberglass body, steel frame and fiberglass seats. The metal frame is currently being redesigned in aluminum that will make the unit even lighter.

Standard bicycle parts are used in the five-speed gear system and disc brakes on both rear wheels add to its safety. All replacement parts can be conveniently obtained at most bicycle shops.

The recreational vehicle has no parts to rust, making it an ideal partner for outdoor enthusiasts along salt water coastlines.

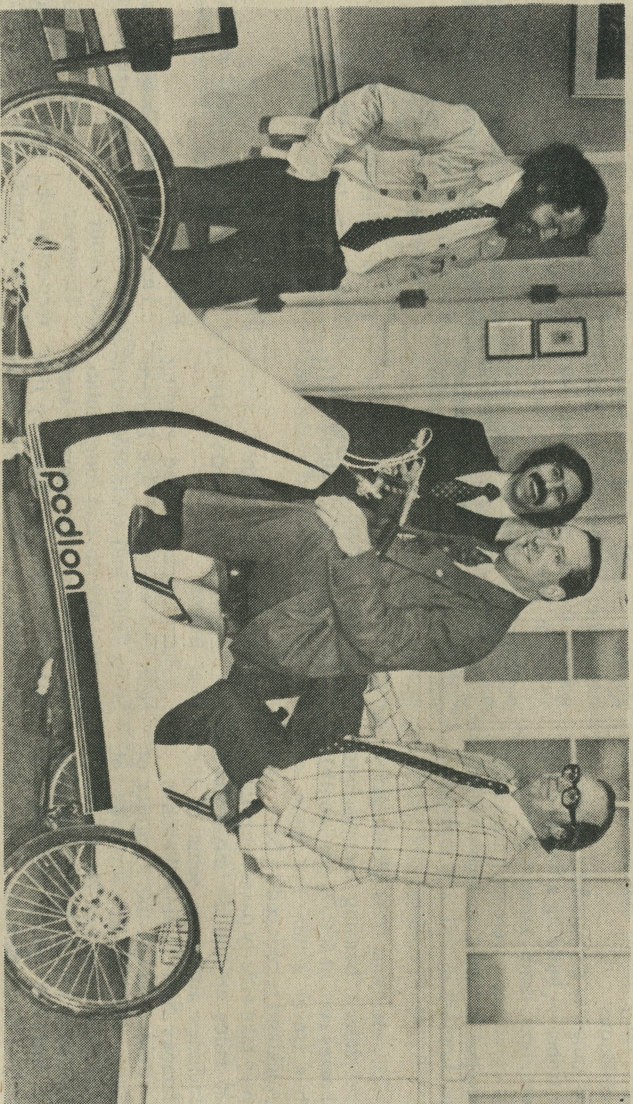
Presently the trial models are being manufactured in Burnside Park, Dartmouth, by Dartec, the firm organized by Malay and Michael Laing. Hazel Malay, his mother, still resides in Lochaber Mees and has her order in for the first production model. Ted Barkhouse, co-owner of Gammons Grocery also has an order in for the streamlined quadra-cycle.

According to the designer, the pleasure cycles will retail for around \$485. The individual owner may add accessories to his preference such as shopping baskets, electric lights, horns and signals at additional cost.

Mr. Malay explains that during the past year as the design was developed, he was trying for an answer to several major national and regional priorities. The Ped-1-on, he declares, satisfies the need for greater physical fitness among Canadians, and provides leisure time fun with a vehicle which furthers environmental protection and eliminates fuel costs.

"Now, if we could find a location along the Eastern Shore where we could situate a production centre, employing possibly 80, we could turn out 100 Ped-1-on per day — enough to supply

Something New to Sing About



Garnet Brown, when questioned about the possibility of assembling the new recreational vehicle somewhere along the Eastern Shore primarily in Sheet Harbour, replied, "It's too early to tell, but I think this is a very exciting concept with limitless possibilities."

North America and the U.K. markets."

"We should be keyed up for production for this summer," Malay stated.

Asking if he was concerned that some other manufacturer with more government assistance or capital might begin producing a similar vehicle before then, Mr. Malay indicated that most of the concepts of the new design were patent protected, and he felt the market would be his once production here began.

Harbour Hospital a Haven

Largely because of the importance and focus brought to bear by one man on the need for senior citizens housing in Musquodoboit Harbour, the issue of the former Twin Oaks Hospital structure has been resolved, jobs have been created in the area for the construction of a 30 bed addition and the solution for the retired residents has formed a welcome conclusion.

As if the demanding responsibilities of Chairman of the Board for Twin Oaks Hospital, caring for the Musquodoboit Harbour pastoral charge of the United Church of Canada, and lending his administrative experience and know-how to other health centres across this province were not enough, this former naval officer has brought to a successful conclusion his latest campaign for a better life for citizens along the Eastern Shore.

For his untiring efforts on behalf of others, for his constant good humour and quiet guidance, and for his foresight in preparing for the futures of others, we nominate the Reverend Robert "Bob" Jones of Musquodoboit Harbour as Citizen of the Week.

Editorial

What We Need ...

"What this country needs is a good five cent cigar" was a famous joke back in the 1930's in the States.

But it is no joke that five cents

of every dollar earned on the Eastern Shore is going to pay for decorating floats for the annual Festival of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California and only one per cent has gone for highway upkeep and development in the past two years.

While the provincial government is beckoning with one hand for tourists to visit this "ocean playground", the same government is heedlessly neglecting our highways which are the life lines for many of our motel operators and shopkeepers, artists and craftsmen.

Without tourists during the four summer months, these people who depend on tourist dollars for the major portion of their annual earnings during this period, experience real hardship and deprivation. In an age when the world is moving toward greater affluence and spendable income, fortune seems to be passing them by.

In hundreds of instances last summer, persons employed by the provincial government at tourist bureaus in the Halifax and Truro areas directed motorists away from the scenic Eastern Shore because of reconstruction work on one bridge.

Those tourists that did penetrate the Shore's single auto route were sometimes met with damage to their cars and trailers because of unnecessarily close clearances and dangerous barriers on that bridge during repairs.

A little bit of public relations effort extended by the Nova Scotia government might have gone a long way to persuading those tourists to come back again and to recommend others to our salmon streams and lobstermen's landings. Instead, the only good will created, once the tourists reached our area, was that which came from individual acts of helpfulness and hospitality traditional to our people.

What has happened to the provincial government's concern for our people since Mr. Brown was Minister for highways? And not only highways. The Province has failed us the past few years in every area except one — recreation.

Last year when the Shore's

major fish processing plant was threatened with closure the provincial department of fisheries knew nothing about the problem until notified by individual fishermen at a mass meeting. Where was the ear of the province, then? Certainly not at the door of the Federal Fisheries in Ottawa. Instead of being "the last to know" the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries should look to their constituents interests and demand from Ottawa better conditions rather than reply. The only positive federal aid - the 200 mile protected fishing limit - was instituted by a Nova Scotian from Cape Breton, Allan MacEachern.

Has the Nova Scotia Department of Development brought any new industry into this region since 1970 except for one minor employer? No. And as far as we know the only efforts which have been made to find gainful employment for graduating students or the 300

or more unemployed in the area has been made by individual leaders in small communities. It's like David fighting Goliath and without a shield.

For awhile the area had been the highest rate - 10.7% of unemployed in the Maritimes, the two possible sources of seasonal incomes — fishing, for salmon and lobster, and the tourist dollar are being unseasonably controlled and at our expense.

What we need is not a good five cent cigar; what we need is a government that will give us value for our nickel.

Like the industrious beaver, pictured on our nickel - we are not afraid to work for what we get, but we will not be deprived of what we have worked honestly for.

Others may have Anli, and the late grey elephant; Magi, and a possible white elephant; Michelin, a tired elephant; and Abercrombie, a smoky elephant. But we have beautiful, unbridled shoreline.

If only someone would come to see the scenery; and shop to have a lobster dinner; and while talking to one of our friendly people realize the potential of this area; and going back to Denver or Dakota decide to locate his next assembly plant in this quiet village, with fine recreational facilities and a perfect deep-sea port. But, alas, we dream of Santa Claus.

But, just suppose, a native son came home, pulling a shiny new toy behind him, playing Pied Piper to the world looking for new ways to spend leisure time.

And suppose that our elected representative saw fit to back this native son in helping us help ourselves. This, then, would be truly no pipe dream, but one of those rare occasions when opportunity knocks and the door opens and the People of the Eastern Shore may enter the world of honest labors, honestly rewarded without leaving all that they have grown to love and care for.

