



the voltage to travel 50 miles, whether in the city or the country, since when it is stopped in traffic it uses no energy at all.

A Marathon is currently in use at the Washington Monument in Washington, DC.

The list price for the car in Canada is \$6,800, including the batteries. A new battery pack, which is needed about every 20,000 miles, costs nearly \$500. For more information, write Marathon Electric Car Ltd., 8305 Le Creusot, Ville de St.-Léonard, Québec, H1P 2A2.

Movies

Canada has a reputation for making good short movies. Two animated children's films—each thirteen minutes long—are among the best. They are in colour, witty and written and directed by Co Hoedeman.

Tchou-tchou, is peopled by blocks, who move in a wonderfully inventive way. A little boy block and a little girl block bollix a marauding dragon block by posting so many one-way signs that he falls asleep exhausted, only to wake and find himself turned into a train who must ride blocky little children around and around.

The second film, *Sandcastle*, won the 1978 Oscar for the best animated film. It is funny, but it has an underlying philosophical theme of the cyclic birth, death and rebirth of the world.



A *tour de force* in animation, it is a gem to show to a film class.

Hundreds of Canadian shorts and documentaries are available without charge to schools and organizations in the US. Catalogues and films can be ordered from film libraries at the Canadian Embassy in Washington and consular posts in Boston (which has the best French-language collection), New York, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles. If your library lacks a particular film, it can be rented from the National Film Board, 16th Floor, 1251 Avenue of the Americas, New York City, NY 10020.

Cold Comfort

As any sailor knows, capsizing is dangerous, and capsizing in icy waters is often fatal. The length of one's survival depends on the temperature of the water, on one's physical condition and on the clothes one is wearing. It is the loss of body heat, hypothermia, that does one in.

Three scientists from the University of Victoria have

designed the U-Vic, a lifejacket that triples the survival chances of anyone who falls into the cold. A lightly clothed person in a U-Vic can last 6 hours in 40°F waters; 8 to 9 hours in 50°F waters, and 12 to 15 hours if the temperature is 60°F.

The jacket looks like a standard ski jacket (and may be used as one). It is totally insulated, much like a diver's wet suit, and has a nylon hood in fluorescent orange to attract rescuers. A groin cover can be snapped between the legs.

The U-Vic has been approved as a Personal Flotation Device by the US Coast Guard and Transport Canada. It is sold in six countries, including the US, where it retails for \$129.95. It is manufactured under licence by Mustang Sportswear, Inc., and for more information, you can write the company at 540 Beatty St., Vancouver, British Columbia, V6B 2L3.

