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## Energy-efficient engine

The recent annual meeting of K-Cycle Engines Ltd., in Winnipeg, featured a special demonstration: the novel design in internal combustion engines was used to power a compact model car.

The K-Cycle engine proved to be a quiet revolutionary. The crowd was hushed expectantly, but the only sound that showed the piston engine was running was a slight click when the motor was turned on.

The cylinders of the engine, installed in a standard compact car, operated so quietly that the engine had to be turned off and on, to prove it was working.

Hoken J. Kristiansen, company president and inventor of the K-Cycle engine, said the quietness demonstrated at the meeting was only one of the engine's attractive features.

He said major European and Japanese companies were interested in the efficiency of the engine, which has only one firing point — one sparkplug — and a much longer power stroke than conventional internal combustion engines.

Mr. Kristiansen, who has done most of the experimental work on the engine at the University of Manitoba, said the company hoped to obtain grants from government and industry sources in Canada and the United States to perfect the engine for marketing.

### U.S. interest

He was invited by the U.S. Government last February to take part in a conference in Boston that began a research plan aimed at developing cars that can obtain up to 50 miles to a gallon of gasoline within the next two decades.

Rick Shand, K-Cycle engineering chief, said the invention had a "similar weight-to-power ratio to the turbine engine, with about half to a third the weight, and half to a third as many components as the conventional engine. There are no tappets, push rods or valve lifters, so there are less wearing parts and less noise," he said.

The longer power stroke means the piston uses more of the power from the controlled gas explosion, and less energy goes out as exhaust.

### No muffler needed

The exhaust release is near atmospheric pressure, and there is so little noise that

no muffler is needed. Mr. Shand said a K-Cycle-type engine theoretically could be developed to power anything from a lawn-mower to an airplane.

L.J. Sinnott, K-Cycle secretary-treasurer, said a vehicle producer with a world-wide dealership network was working on a production prototype of the engine, which uses diesel fuel. He would not name the company.

The local test car engine has a carburetor gasoline flow, while the European version is fuel injected. The European version is expected to be ready for sale initially by 1982.

Mr. Sinnott said Pratt & Whitney, the U.S. manufacturer of aircraft engines, had expressed interest in the K-Cycle engine, and the Japanese conglomerate, Mitsubishi Corp., was involved in a royalties-sharing marketing agreement.

The meeting was told that K-Cycle, which has a staff of 25 and plans to set up a 5,000-square-foot laboratory in Winnipeg, soon will be listing its shares on the Winnipeg Stock Exchange.

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## Sasquatch hunt in Manitoba

Residents of the Little Saskatchewan Indian reserve, say they believe an eight-foot-tall, human-like creature is roaming the bush in their area.

They have organized a search in the area near Gypsumville, about 230 kilometres north of Winnipeg, Manitoba, to try to capture the creature, which witnesses say is black, walks like a man and, except for its face, is covered with hair.

"We're going to catch it if we can and sell it. It's a good way to get rich," search leader Clifford Shorting says.

Mr. Shorting said he scouted the area recently from a small bush plane with no results.

Footprints found in the area show the creature has a stride of about 1.5 metres, he said.

Norman Shorting and his cousin Ivor Traverse said they were closer than anyone else to the creature.

"When I see (sic) it, it was walking and ducking down. It was just like a big gorilla. Lots of hair over him, black, running like a man," he said.

Conservation officer Ron Heroux said he was shaken when he made a plaster cast of what is said to be a 390-mm-long (15-inch) footprint left by the creature in dry, hard mud.

He said whatever made the 50-mm deep (2-inch) impression had to weigh at least 400 pounds.

The indentation is "as close to what I've seen in ads and books on what a Sasquatch is like," Mr. Heroux says. "I don't know what else could make the print so perfect."

The plaster footprint is being kept at the conservation office as a curiosity, and no official investigation was planned.

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## Collector buys first silver dollar

It may be the emperor of Canadian coins, but encased in a clear plastic cover the dulled silver dollar looks in need of a good polish.

But a polish is not advised — it could drastically reduce the coin's \$189,000 value, reports Kerra Lockhart in *The Citizen*, August 31, 1979.

In July, coin dealer Tony Currato of Niagara Falls travelled to St. Louis, Missouri where he outbid one American, two Canadians and two Arabs to purchase Canada's first silver dollar from a U.S. collector.

"I feel very lucky to have got it," said Mr. Currato. "I had four offers to buy it before I even left the floor. One guy offered me \$10,000 more than I had just paid."

In 1910, the Canadian Government decided to issue its first silver dollars and commissioned a British company to design the coins.

Only two samples were struck before the Government changed its mind. One of the coins is now in the British Government's possession. The other travelled the world passing through several collectors, including Egypt's King Farouk, before winding up in Mr. Currato's possession.

Mr. Currato displayed the coin for the first time at an Ottawa coin show, which ended September 6. The coin, which had a 24-hour guard, was transported from Niagara Falls in an armoured truck.

Mr. Currato said he first fell in love with the coin, which bears the crowned likeness of King George V, when he saw it in an exhibition two years ago.

But he doubted it would be a permanent possession. "I fall in love all the time," he said. "Eventually I'll sell it."

Mr. Currato would like to see the coin remain in Canada. "Something like this is a national treasure. It shouldn't be let out of the country," he said.