

Toy drainpipe cleaner

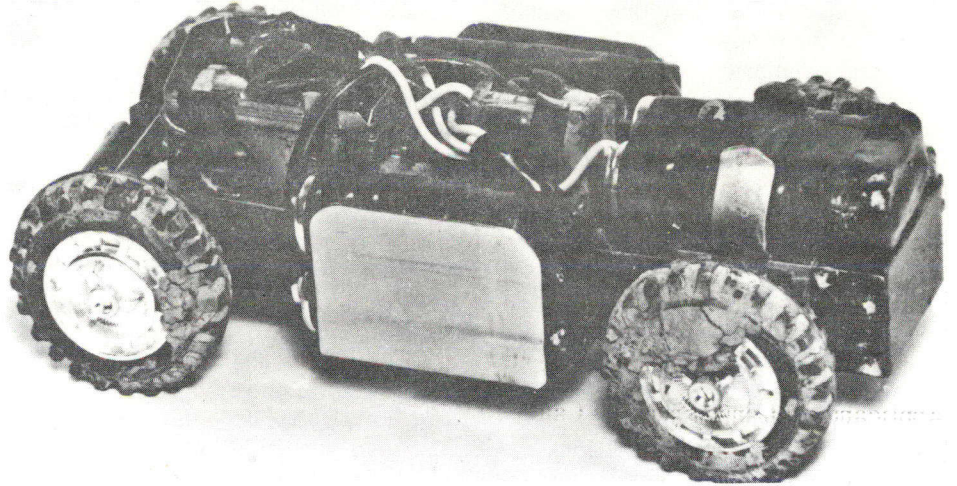
A toy truck or "mechanical mouse" that is used to pull string through drainage pipes, is attracting a lot of attention at Agriculture Canada's Engineering Research Service in Ottawa.

"The string is used to pull a strong tow line through pipes and the mechanical mouse is used to get the string from one end of the pipe to the other," says Bob Hore, one of the inventors.

"The tow line is used to pull gauges, descaling, cleaning or inspection equipment through the pipe so we can examine the structure and condition of a drainage pipe buried in a farmer's field."

Tests conducted at Agriculture Canada's Research Station at Harrow, Ontario, show that the "mouse" can travel through mud and even underwater because of its DC motor. The only thing that can stop the device is a badly blocked pipe.

The idea of using a small toy occur-



Agriculture Canada engineers in Ottawa have developed what they have nicknamed this "mechanical mouse",

a modified toy truck used to check the condition of drainage pipes buried in farmers' fields.

red to Mr. Hore while he was looking at old Christmas toys.

The mouse is a four-wheel drive truck stripped of its plastic body. Modifications include reducing the toy's track width to about 2.5 inches from 2.75 inches, fitting a towing eye to the metal frame, sealing the truck's

base with epoxy resin to prevent dirt from entering the two-speed gearbox and adding two extra batteries for more power.

It can pass through horizontal pipes about four inches in diameter, weighs about 12.5 ounces and can travel at about 20 feet a minute in low gear.

Tannery mission to Eastern Europe

Seven representatives of the tanning industry recently visited several Eastern European countries, including the U.S.S.R., to determine the market possibilities for products of Canada's tanneries.

The mission, which was sponsored by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, was one of the initiatives undertaken by the industry and the Department under the Footwear and Tanning Industries Sector Strategy announced by the Minister, Alastair Gillespie, last December.

This new strategy contains measures of financial assistance to help these industries become more competitive both in export and domestic markets.

The recent mission, an important step in assisting the tanning industry to enlarge its share of world markets, will be followed in September by Canadian participation in the world's largest annual leather and footwear fair, "La Semaine du Cuir" in Paris.

The group visited Zagreb, Yugoslavia, Moscow and Lodz, Poland.

Canadian participation in World Population Year

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Marc Lalonde and the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, Robert Andras, have announced the preparations initiated by Canada to participate in the United Nations World Population Year 1974.

The highlight this year, the World Population Conference, will be held under the auspices of the United Nations in Bucharest, Romania, from August 19 to 30. Canada has submitted a response to the United Nations "Second Inquiry on Population Growth and Development". This factual account of the present status of population-related policies and program in Canada, was tabled in the House of Commons last October.

The Canadian Institute of International Affairs, in consultation with the Family Planning Federation of Canada and the Inter-Church Project on Population, has been asked to host a series of public meetings on a regional basis across Canada. Meetings will be

held in Moncton, Quebec City, Toronto, Saskatoon, Vancouver and Yellowknife during the next few months to seek the views of interested Canadians and organizations on the following items that are on the agenda for the Bucharest conference:

- (1) recent population trends and future prospects;
- (2) relations between population change and economic and social development;
- (3) relations between population, resources and environment;
- (4) population, family and human well-being;
- (5) the World Population Plan of Action.

Conference agenda

The object of World Population Year is to stimulate and support constructive planning by governments in connection with the issues that will be dealt with by the Bucharest meeting. In the case of Canada a number of significant projects are under way.