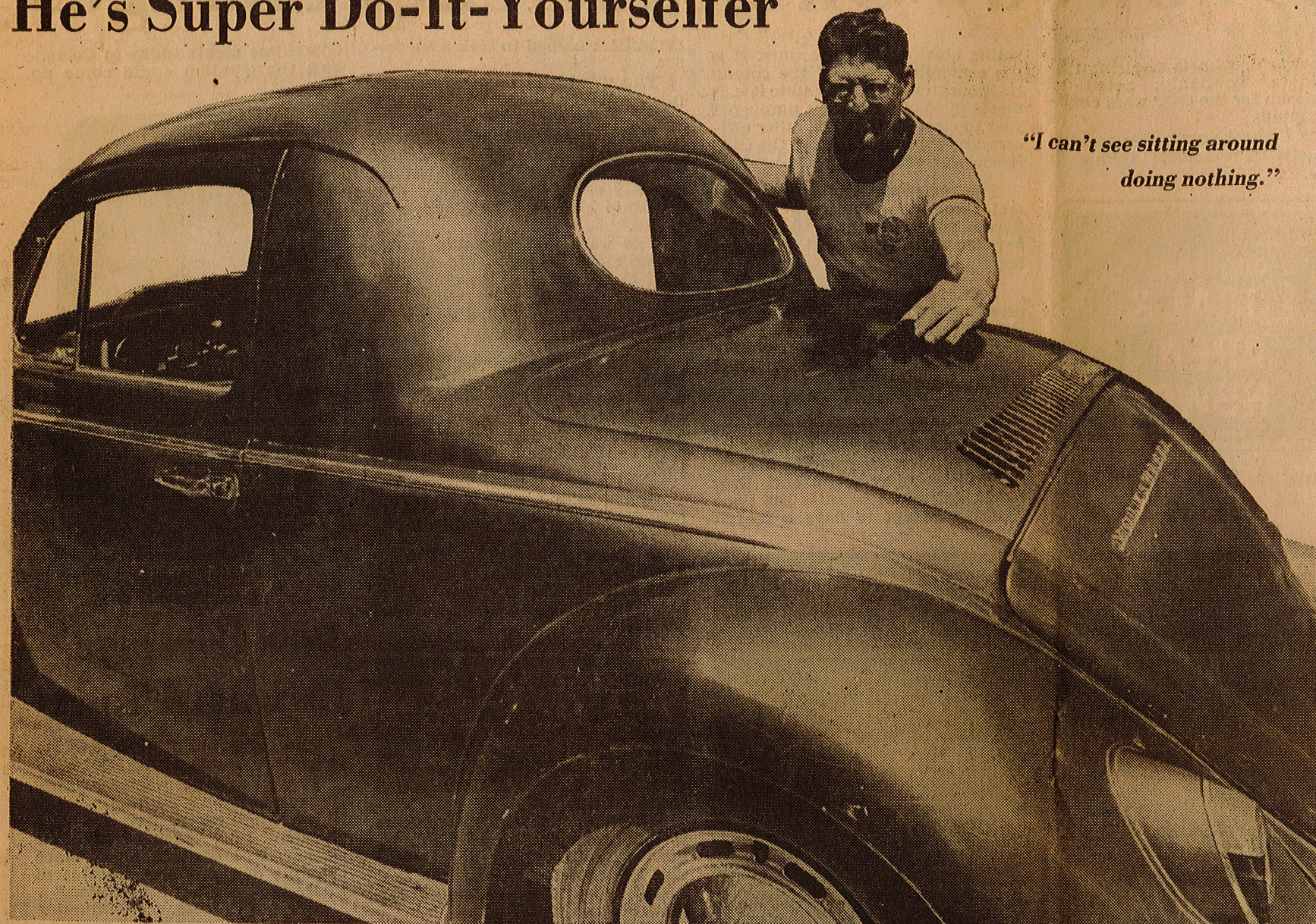


He's Super Do-It-Yourselfer



"I can't see sitting around doing nothing."

By IRA BROCK
Of The Enquirer Staff

Joe Conrad's an adventurous accomplisher of the preposterous.

Some of his Clifton neighbors weren't too certain what was with this guy at one time.

That was when he shoveled a hole on Riddle View Lane and began to build a house. By himself.

Most of the neighbors were engineers. Some of them were University of Cincinnati professors.

Joe Conrad was a Western Union messenger. His academic stature was as a graduate of Elder High School.

WHAT THOSE SKEPTICAL practitioners of engineering didn't know was that Joe Conrad had empirical knowledge they lacked.

In April, 1950, he paid \$200 for a haggard hull of a boat more in than out of the Ohio River.

Four and a half months later he had built from scratch a 35-foot houseboat, christened "Hot Rod" and still in use.

The cash outlay beyond the original \$200 was \$1900.

Born 61 years ago to the late Matt and Henrietta Conrad, the boat builder has been described as a master of sagacity as a workman on any under-

"I deliver in a car now and average 55,000 miles a year," he explains. "I seldom quit work until the last delivery is made. Last week I put in 64 hours."

Nope. Western Union messenger Joe Conrad never delivered a singing telegram, a practice discontinued years ago.

"I can't see sitting around doing nothing," he fidgets. So he never goes to movies. Never watches television.

He started not sitting around doing nothing a long time ago by getting wrecks and automotive parts from junk yards and insurance companies and producing workable cars.

One of these productions was a 1936 Ford convertible phaeton, with a lot of plastic in it. A young man wanted it. His cash offer didn't interest Conrad.

He let the car go, though, then the youth talked his father into knocking \$2000 off the price of a house at 3011 Riddle View Ln.

Conrad sold two houses he owned, one in the West End and one in Fairmount, and moved his family into the bargain house in Clifton.

That house had a 30-foot side yard. Conrad bought some more footage from a watchmaker who was selling his house, which fronted on Riddle Road, to return to Scotland.

after he began making believers of his doubting neighbors, was Conrad-installed.

SPLENDORS OF the home include 1½-inch thick marble flooring in one bathroom and a copy of an authentic colonial fireplace in the living room.

"Another beauty of it, Conrad grins, "is that the house was free and unencumbered when we moved in."

Also helping him from sitting around doing nothing are work on the boat, plying the Ohio with it, welding sections of different cars into one vehicle, photography, etc.

One of his oddest vehicular creations was a 1965 Volkswagen he made into a coupe.

It resembles a regular Volkswagen bug approaching and a 1935 Ford business coupe going away. He's got 130,000 miles on it. He once got 430,000 miles out of a rebuilt car.

He swims, too, does this black-haired, almost frenetically energized man with a thread-thin mustache.

He first swam across the Ohio River and back in 1933. He has done it daily, usually from mid-May until early November, every year since.

The round trip from the foot of Vance Street in the East End to the foot of Main Street in Dayton, Ky., takes him 20 minutes. He used to do it in 15.

Sister Mary Mueller, OSF, Dies Of Injuries

Sister Mary Carl Mueller, 73, OSF, died early Sunday at General Hospital from injuries suffered in a Sayler Park traffic accident the day before.

Three other nuns in the same automobile were injured. They were treated at St. Francis Hospital and released.

Authorities said the car slid on wet pavement as it turned east on River Road from Gracely Drive and went into the path of a Gulf Oil tractor trailer truck driven by Lawrence Sackett, 31, 10285 Short St., Florence, Ky.

Sister Mary Carl was trapped in the car for 15 minutes, before being freed by firemen and Rescue Squad members.

Injured were Sisters Rose Knoob, 67, Mary K. Stier, 66, and Michael Wilson, 56, all of the Oldenburg, Ind. convent. Cincinnati police said the car, owned by St. Aloysius Church, Sayler Park, was driven by Sister Michael.

No charges were filed against either driver.

Sister Mary Carl, a native of Camp Washington, took her final vows as a Franciscan in 1924 at Oldenburg. She taught at missions in St. Louis, Indianapolis, New Albany, Ind., and Chillicothe, Mo.

Sister Mary Carl lived at St. Aloysius Convent, Delhi, and she had taught at St. Clement School and Our Lady of Angels High School, both in St. Bernard.

At her death, she was on the faculty of St. Aloysius parish school.

She is survived by three sisters, Mrs. William Richmond, North College Hill, Mrs. Charles Fuerbacher, Mt. Airy, and Mrs. George Ginn, Mt. Airy, and three brothers, Carl, Flor-

ence, Ky., Joseph, Brentwood, and Francis (Bob), Groesbeck.

Visitation will be 4-9 today at Rebold Funeral Home, 3700 Glenmore Ave., Cheviot. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10 a.m. Tuesday at St. Aloysius Church with burial in the Oldenburg Convent cemetery. Mass there will be 9 a.m. EST Wednesday.

Probe Continues Into Road Death

Boone County authorities continued their investigation Sunday into the weekend death of a 16-year-old Covington youth.

Eugene Ellis, 915 York St., was struck by a car about 11:45 p.m. Saturday while lying in the east-bound lane of Ky. 18 at the Middle Creek Rd. intersection, about six miles west of Burlington, according to Clinton Shield, deputy Boone County coroner.

The car which struck Ellis stopped, and an occupant called police, Shield said. Boone County Police declined to release names or details of the incident. A spokesman for the Hamilton County Ohio, coroner's office, however, said an autopsy was performed there Sunday on Ellis and the body returned to Kentucky. The autopsy report was not available.

Ellis leaves his mother, Mrs. Colonel Napier, Florence; his father, Willard Ellis, Cincinnati; a brother, Ricky Ellis, 15, Florence; a half-brother, Tim Napier, Florence and maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Nolan, Burlington.

Services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Britton Funeral Home, Manchester. Burial will be in Manchester Cemetery, Clay County. Visitation will be 4-9 p.m. today in the Stith Funeral Home, Florence, and after 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Britton Funeral Home, Manchester.

