

---Archie's Answer---

Brief review by Peter Lowrie
The Sunday Times. May 14, 1978. Page 8
Journalist: Graham Ingram

Caption: ARCHIE BLUE at work...He thinks he's onto something big.

Heading: H²O's his solution !

FROM time to time inventors come up with "solutions" to the world's future energy shortages. There have been people who have despaired through trying to create perpetual motion, designing motors which will run on anything...men who say it doesn't matter that the world's oil wells will soon run dry. The answer, some say, is in your nearest tap, river or lake. Water. Will it do the trick? Even in New Zealand there have been several who have replied with an emphatic "yes". Christchurch electrician Archie Blue is the latest. Headlines in local papers¹ the other day suggested Arab oilmen had offered 73-year-old Mr. Blue 500 million pounds² for the patent rights for his device, an appliance which would make petrol stations obsolete.

The article outlines Archie Blue's background, education and vocational training providing scant information about various inventions and less about the actual device of interest. Being a tabloid paper the surface is only-just skimmed as would be expected from a Sunday read that fails to challenge the reader, vernacularly limited and thus targeted to primary reading abilities without so much focus on any particular pursuit the result is disappointing to anyone seeking new knowledge about his ideas or goals.

Mr Blue was born in Christchurch, New Zealand and began a career as an electrician. He invented a means to record audio signals onto a piece of wire that was presented to RCA Victor and turned down by that company due to difficulties with the format. Had he persisted then he may have stumbled upon magnetic recording tape.

The article refers to another publication namely the Daily Mail and he was published on August 19, 1977 in the motoring section. There is mention of a blower that directed electrolytic gas into a stripped down carburettor fitted into a van that ran around the island of Guernsey in traffic. Eventually the electric motor powering the blower expired but not before attracting the interest of one David Hooper of the islands' Royal Automobile Club.

Notwithstanding successful patents in U.S.A, England and New Zealand and accolades from those who came to know of his work, Mr. Blue failed to attract any significant income from his inventions.

Mr. Blue was a sportsman in his younger days winning trophies for his athletic prowess. When he departed this life the family tossed out all of his work without knowledge of it's significance.

He should have taken the money!

1 {ed} Christchurch Star, April 29, 1978. Page 1.

2 {ed} \$1,000,000,000 (one thousand million dollars (phew))