

more pictures of THE MAN WHO WOULD NOT BE BEATEN : His Helpers are Priveleged



Calvin Lekoane, the man who refused to be beaten, was born in 1918, and he lives in Germiston with his carpenter uncle, who is his only guardian. His mother died in 1923 when Calvin was only five years of age, and his father, too, has passed out of Calvin's life.

Calvin is completely self-taught as far as his painting is concerned. He has taught himself other things too. How to make a car for instance; this took him three months, but he did it entirely alone, from materials provided by his uncle.

The man with the feet is a beloved figure in Germiston. He has a sweet and sympathetic temperament and his affliction has taught him a patience and kindness often denied to more normal men. His friends are drawn from among all sections of the community, and many a stranger, attracted by his quiet and dignified bearing, has paused to speak to him.

He is a member of the A.M.E. Church and the influences of religious feeling may be observed in the obvious pleasure which Calvin derives from painting a church. He has painted many churches as well as a large number of other subjects.

He has an excellent collection of swing records. But the friends who delight to spend long periods of time in his company do not come only to hear music. They come to seek something of the inspiration of Calvin Lekoane himself.

The feet easily create a picture that would be beyond the capacity of many a hand.



Calvin never lacks willing hands to pass him a cup of tea or to perform other tasks for him. In this photograph the expression on the face of his companion suggests that she regards doing this service as something of a privilege.

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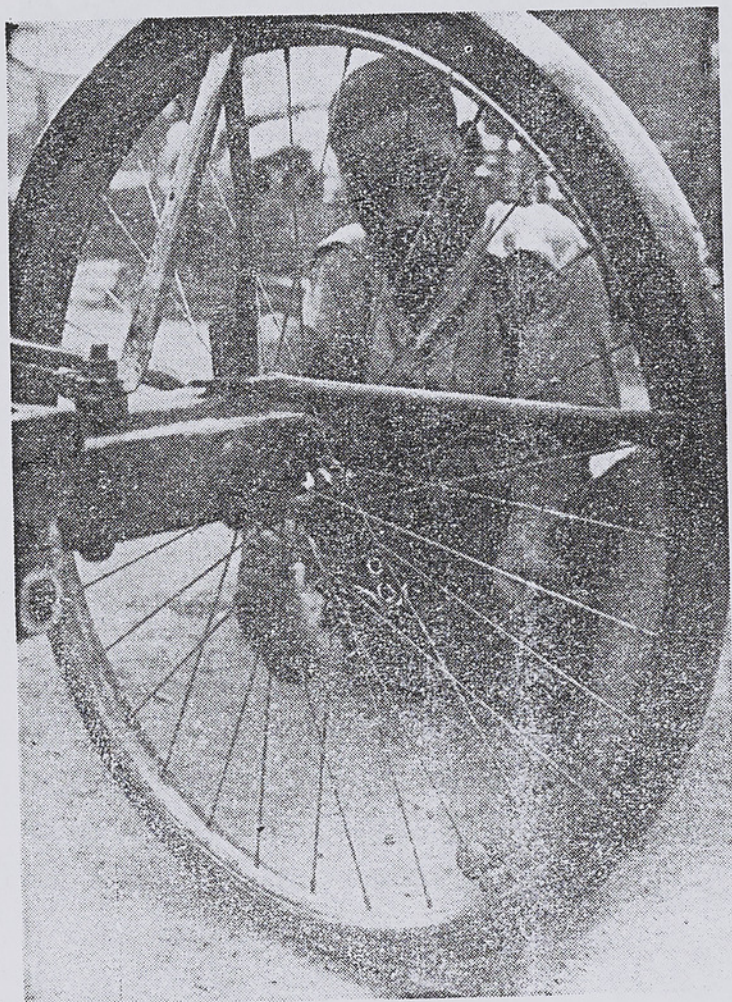
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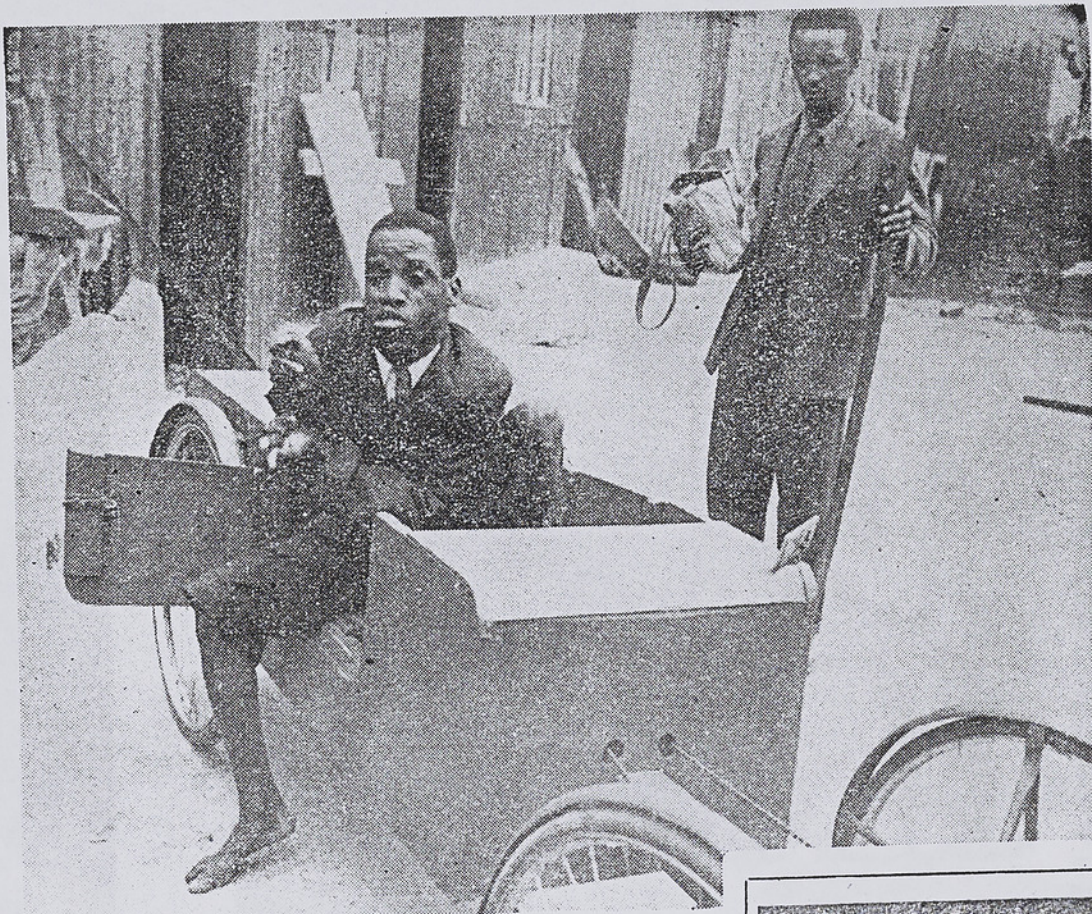
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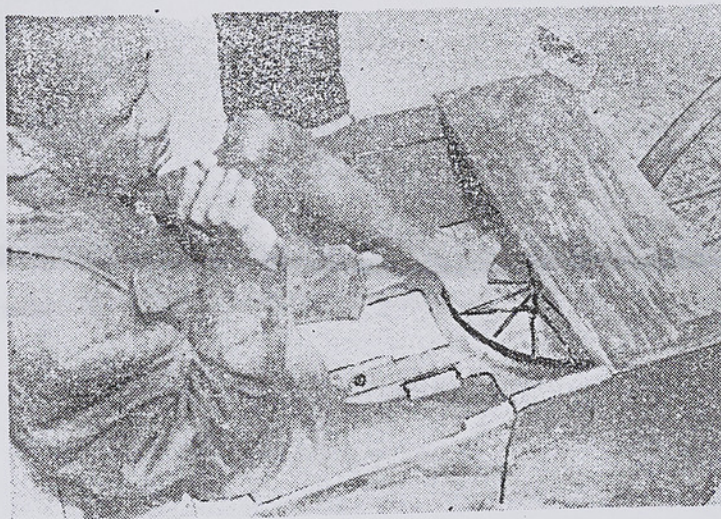
Calvin at work on the wheel of the car he himself built. The mechanics of repairing a car come to him with the same facility as does painting, but again, the toes must do the work of fingers.



Long practice has provided the feet with the dexterity of hands. To Calvin this is normality, to the watcher it is something of a miracle.



The car that Calvin made himself.



Calvin's ingenious steering device. One foot must operate it, while the other provides propulsion. The car even has a rear mirror.



This photograph shows TG 1950 in motion. The power comes from the visible foot. At Calvin's home, in Germiston, this has become so familiar a sight that people no longer stand and stare.

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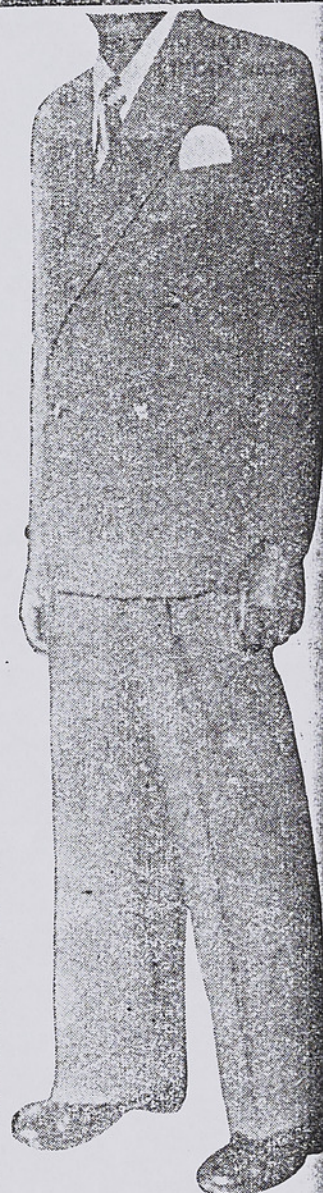
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