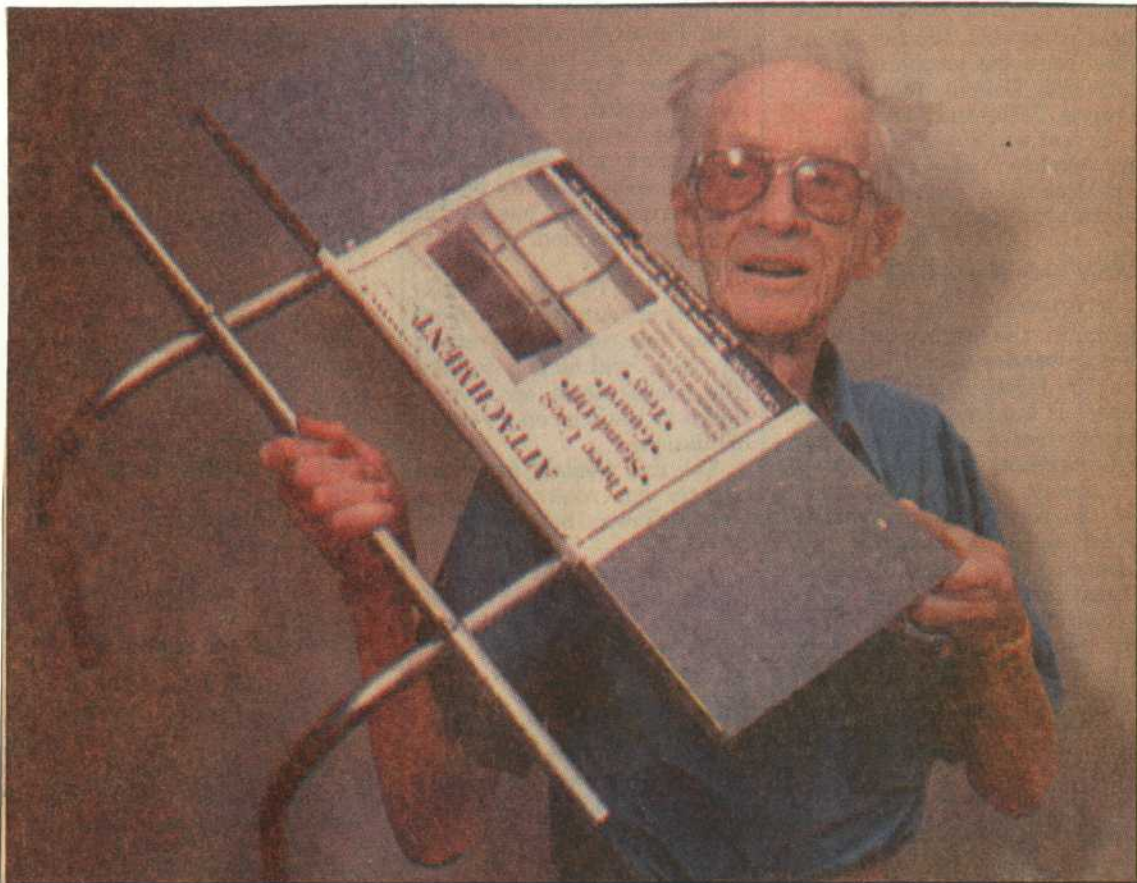


May, Bruce



Intelligencer photo by Frank O'Connor

Bruce May, 82, with his ladder 'stand-off' invention.

At 82, Bruce May still an original *Steel Jan 12/95 p.1*

Never too old to invent

By Jack Evans

The Intelligencer

Just because you're a senior citizen doesn't mean you're out of ideas.

Just ask Bruce May.

Now approaching 82, May has had several successful inventions to his credit during a long and chequered career as self-employed-entrepreneur-handymann-inventor.

In recent months he came up with a double-barrelled idea involving houses and ladders.

One is a soft-coated metal guard which protects the surface of siding or windows. The other is a ladder "stand-off" which provides a tray working area for paint or tools while positioning a ladder away from a building.

They add to many other prod-

ucts he has made or developed over the years, such as Mayline aluminum awnings — "There are 500 of my awnings in Kenron estates" — a sliding, all-metal window screen (still sold by Canadian Tire and other retailers) and Fold-a-Fence hedge guard.

May came to Belleville with his family in 1929 when his father was appointed chief engineer at the old Belleville Stephens Adamson plant. He was 13 years old at the time, completed his schooling in Belleville and tried a university course for a couple of years. "They weren't teaching the right things," he says.

His first interest when he entered the work force was newspapering, and he started his own newspaper called The Hastings Beacon in the Second World

War. He also worked for The Intelligencer (then The Ontario Intelligencer.)

He took a "war emergency class" in metal work under the tutelage of former city alderman Bill Finkle.

That started him into designing and manufacturing various types of metal products, often his own inventions, first in an area of the old Canadian Tire Store on Harriet Street, and later in a plant his father helped him get into on Dussek Street.

"Inventions just come to you. I like to find shortcuts."

The new products are now being manufactured at Trent-Quinte Aluminum and Vinyl Products Ltd., Trenton.

"I'm having fun and doing something I hope is useful."