

Watson's Wandering Washer

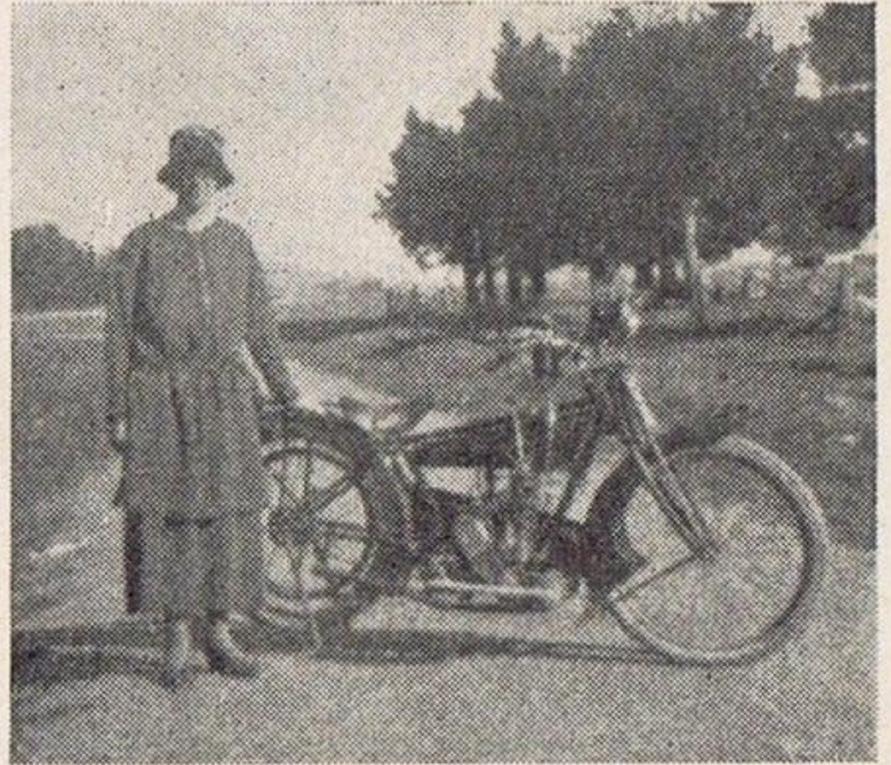
Mrs Watson, of Seddon, keeps Wash-day Ahead of the Times.

MARLBOROUGH residents have become quite used to the sight of Mrs Mary Watson and her travelling washing-machine, but the idea is still a novel one for this country and shows that ingenuity and enterprise still live. The novelty is supplied by the fact that for transport Mrs Watson uses a 5/6 Indian Scout with a side-car specially designed to carry her electric washer. Many a busy farmer's wife has reason to bless the sight of Mrs Watson when she arrives to do the family's washing.

Economy was not the sole reason for Mrs Watson's choice of a motor cycle for her mode of transport. Actually she has been a keen rider since 1924; she "graduated" to side-car work in 1939. Her first machine was a "V" twin, while the second one, of which she was very proud, was an "Alldays-Allon" two stroke. "My third machine," said Mrs Watson, "was

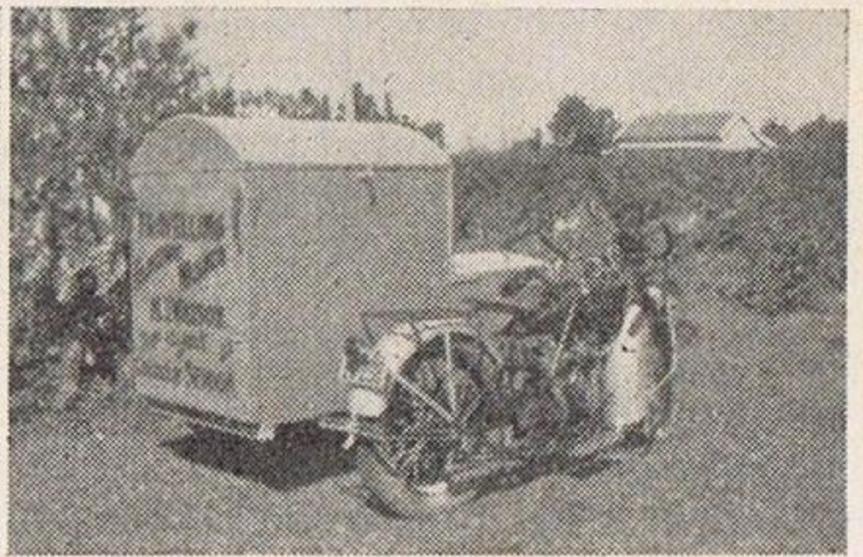
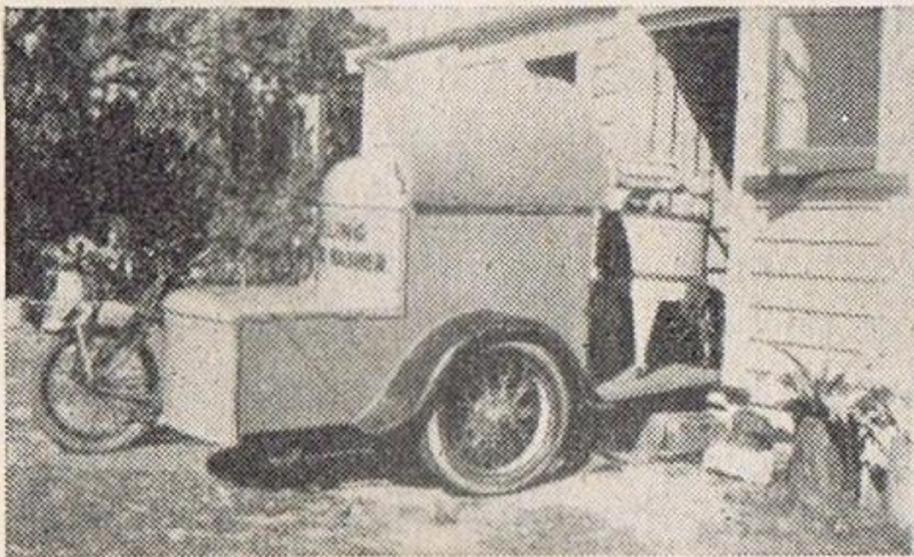
a B.S.A. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$, followed by a Royal Enfield 350 cc, and of course now my 5/6 Indian Scout."

As the first lady rider of the Blenheim Motor Cycle Club, Mrs Watson naturally became known as a rider of no mean ability, so



1924.—With the "New Look" of the day Mrs Watson proudly poses next to her Alldays-Allon two-stroke.

that during the war it was a matter of course that she became a Dispatch Rider in the W.W.S.A. During those years she was also kept busy by her Rural Mail Delivery and Good's Service, in wet weather this service was sometimes carried on by truck or car.



HOW IT'S DONE.—Left shows Mrs Watson's sidecar opened up to allow the electric washer to be run in, while on the right is the outfit ready for the road.

In 1937 Mrs Watson did a solo tour of the North Island and this coming season she intends to do a similar trip around the South Island. Riders during the holiday season will no doubt see that colourful Indian as it carries its rider in and out of the Southern beauty spots.

FEW MISHAPS

Movie camera and magazines have told the public of New Zealand this colourful story of New Zealand's enterprising washer-woman, but to us she confided the facts of her only mishaps. One occurred with the side-car attachment in 1939 when she had the Royal Enfield. The side-car wheel axle broke and put the complete outfit over the bank, but with wonderful nerve Mrs Watson managed to control the machine and steer it to the bottom of the gully. Mrs Watson was alright but the outfit was badly damaged and a job for the tow-car. Her other mishap was way back in 1930 when riding solo. While travelling at 40 m.p.h. the front assembly gave way, and, to quote Mrs Watson, "I kissed the road very hard." However, Mrs Watson is still undaunted and rates motor cycling as the sport of sports, and she should know as among her pastimes she includes flying, rowing, fishing, and shooting; she has only just resigned from the Blenheim Defence Rifle Club because she

by "Gladiator"

wishes to take up archery and is awaiting the opening of a club.

As a postscript for those men riders who are inclined to class lady riders as "completely without mechanical knowledge," may we point out that Mrs Watson, even in the good old days, did her



SKYPILOT.—Mrs Watson is also a keen flyer as can be seen from this photo taken by her instructor.

maintenance including the fitting of rings, valve grinding, and re-timing, apart from the usual road side repairs.

Our congratulations go to Mrs Watson for her unique occupation, and for her safety record on a job that surely must be fraught with its own peculiar thrills.

XMAS 1938.—Mrs Watson and her then new Royal Enfield 350 c.c. S.V.

