

Ole Evinrude (1877-1934) and the Outboard motor



Have you ever been in a small boat? Small boats can be rowed with oars. Sometimes a small boat can have sails. Nowadays a small boat can have an outboard motor. You can see one in the picture. The boat in the picture is not moving. The motor is tilted out of the water. To make the boat go the motor is tilted into the water. Then the motor can turn its propeller. This pushes the boat along.

Ole Evinrude lived in Norway. He was born on 19th April. Ole was an inventor. He liked thinking up new ideas and making new machines.

Ole had a little boat. It did not have sails. It was a rowing boat. One day Ole wanted to go for a picnic. He wanted to have his picnic on an island. Ole packed his picnic basket. He got out his boat. He began to row over the sea. Have you ever rowed a boat? It is hard work. Ole rowed and rowed. He felt tired. "This is hard work," thought Ole to himself, "too much work for a small picnic! I must invent something. We need a way to make small boats go without rowing."

When he got home Ole did some more hard work. He worked until he had invented a small petrol motor. It was a motor to fix on the outside of a small boat so it was called an "outboard" motor. Soon he was making these motors for other people. You can still buy an Ole Evinrude outboard motor today.