

Farmers' economic troubles in recent years have not hurt Bruce Packers Ltd. too much, the company owner said. He said there is not nearly the number of cattle that there was in Bruce County five to 10 years ago but that he has had no problem whatever filling his needs.

The one problem he did have during the recession in the early 1980's was that a number of his customers went into bankruptcy. Bender admitted that put a bit of a financial strain on the business.

As for future problems, Bender doesn't know what effect Free Trade will have on the Canadian meat packing industry.

"Currently there is a tremendous amount of beef and pork entering Ontario from the U.S.A. and even Europe," Bender said. "It's another form of competition. Whether Free Trade would add to the amount of poundage entering the country I don't know," he said.

"All I can tell you is there is nothing preventing me from doing the opposite, selling my products in Michigan and New York state," the meat packer said.

The company currently doesn't sell any meat in the U.S. Bender said there are advantages and disadvantages to where his plant is located now. It is nice to be in the centre of a livestock-producing region. And the Paisley native finds the way of life in Elderslie Township personally desirable.

However at times he wishes he had more access to modern technology more readily available in larger centres.

If Paisley ever received a natural gas line the plant owner said it would greatly reduce his costs and make his plant much more efficient.

He also acknowledges that the market for the company's products is pretty sparse when compared to urban markets further south.

But Bender says he intends to continue on with a slow steady approach to growth. That attitude has seen the number of his employees at the plant grow from 18 in 1971, to 38-40 in 1987.

The total payroll for the company in 1987 was \$775,000. "As certain machinery and buildings age, the possibility of some expansion is not remote," Bender said.



Since Larry Bender took over Bruce Packers Ltd., north of Paisley, in 1971, the company has been growing steadily for the last 17 years.

Peter Cutter honoured with Fellowship



Peter Cutter, a 40-year member of Paisley and Port Elgin Rotary Clubs, received Rotary's highest individual recognition by being named a Paul Harris Fellow. Past President, Herb Young, made the official presentation.

Peter Cutter, 40-year member of Rotary and Past President of the Paisley Rotary Club, was honored by the Port Elgin Rotary Club for his dedication to community service by receiving Rotary's highest individual award, the Paul Harris Fellowship. This award was founded in 1916 with the objective "to further understanding and friendly relations among people of different nations". Today Rotary operates in more than 161 countries of the world.

Peter was born in Holland and came to Kitchener in 1929. He attended the Agricultural College in Guelph for two years. He worked as a buttermaker in Walkerton and in 1945 bought and operated the Paisley Creamery. He joined Rotary in Paisley in 1945 and was president in 1948-49. In 1958 he became a partner in Fourway Dairy Products of Tara. In 1965 this was sold to Gay Lea Dairy Foods.

In 1970, Peter moved to Port Elgin and became actively involved in the Real Estate business.

Peter has worked long and hard for the betterment of the Port Elgin community over the past 18 years. He is always willing to help in programs directed to youth, senior citizens, community services and internationally, to Polio Plus, an attempt by Rotary to vaccinate all the children of the world against polio.

Because of Peter's dedication, his fellow members of Rotary feel that Peter is a worthy recipient of this prestigious award.