

### Hold urban jobs

"A farmer sells all his products wholesale, but has to buy his equipment retail... that's pretty well it," he said. "Farm equipment is costly... the market is good for my products, but the price I get is not in line with what I have to pay for equipment."

At one time horses were used -- and cheaply too -- but today it's the tractor. The pace of modern life requires expensive milking machines to do the job rather than the inexpensive manual method. Taxes have soared.

"If the agricultural industry is as important to Canada as what we read it is... someone should show us some attention then."

"The federal minister of agriculture says our population will double in the not too far off future and if it does we will have to start importing our food supply," he said exemplifying the diminishing full-time farmer in Canada.

"Credit is the big hurdle. You would need at least \$50,000 to start up today."

Paradoxically, however, modern equipment has eliminated many of the hardships of farming in bygone years. Mr. Darling referred to hydro: "I remember when my mother had to pull water from the

well." Now there is hot and cold running water.

Radio, television and newspapers have made life more enjoyable and transportation has removed the sense of isolation.

"I remember too when my mother used to wash using an old scrub board... those were difficult days."

Soon it was noon and Mrs. Darling called us in for lunch. Once again grace was said and then we helped ourselves to meat, potatoes, gravy,

home-made bread, coffee buns and pie.

Suddenly, Mr. Darling remembered he had a township council meeting to attend in which tenders were to be opened for construction of the second phase of a development road.

He changed into black shoes, dark trousers, a crisp dress shirt and tie. On the way into the village, he stopped off at a store and bought two cigars... "I don't smoke them at home much, but like one or

two at a meeting."

He laughed to himself about the tiff with the children just as he was driving out of the laneway a few moments earlier. They were busy painting again and the father told Lynn to "help your mother with the dishes," and Kay to help Dick fix the pasture fence. The grumbles were weak and short-lived.

The meeting was short with McCoy Construction of Stittsville getting the contract.

Back at the farm, Mr. Dar-

ling changed back to work clothes and tackled the shed again. It was time-consuming labor-pounding, snipping, sawing, hoisting.

A baseball bat was spied in the barn.

"Sometimes when we get a little bit ambitious, we hit the ball around," quipped Mr. Darling.

What don't you like about farming?

"Picking up stones and the cost of modern machinery," he answered quickly from atop the tractor.

### Dog herded Cows

Bringing in the cows for milking at night was once handled by a Darling dog. A collie, it died five years ago "but we never had to go out and bring in the cows." How about Tip and Tick? "I'd be far better with a goat."

It began to rain. Mrs. Darling came out of the house and drove the family car into the garage. The wall of the shed was completed and now work began on constructing doors. Lumber was hauled into the shed and the measuring, sawing and hammering began again.

Mr. Darling and his wife find their entertainment in country functions such as dinners and dances, and they visit friends. Mr. Darling likes sports and watches the football games on television.

There are no holidays for farmers, no two or three weeks to get away from it all. And it's a seven-day work week. Nevertheless, Mr. Darling and a group of friends take a week off for deer hunting each fall.

Five o'clock rolled around: supper time. The children piled in the door, hands were washed, grace said and once again a large meal awaited us—cheese and macaroni, salmon slices, buns, home-made bread and coffee.

The children washed the dishes while Carl left for the barn with a bucket of warm soapy water and some rags.

He explained he was going to "clean the bags of the cows." This is a nightly ritual on the farm and a sanitary necessity. Mud often collects on the cows' udders.

Mr. Darling headed for the pasture to round up the dairy cattle. Mrs. Darling donned slacks and blouse and along with Carl yelled and barked at the cows to get in the barn. "Heeyaa, heeyaaaa... come on... come on cowbuss... come on cowboss," yelled Mrs. Darling.

When the cows were in place, the automatic milkers were hooked up while the collection of cats and dogs roamed in and out viewing the situation. A bowl of warm "instant" milk was put aside for the pets. Before each "hook up", the udders were washed.

That over, the animals were herded back to pasture for the night. It would be repeated early in the morning.

### Nightly ritual

Mr. Darling and the family washed up. The reeve then drove me out to see one of his ranches. Dusk was falling and the air was filled with the fragrance of rain-soaked earth.

Carl and his mother took out some cards to play solitaire. Lynn stood outside in her raincoat playing with the animals. Kay was not to be seen. Normally, the children would be watching television... but it was "on the blink".

While standing in the ranch pasture looking at the cattle, the clouds came over dark and the sky opened up. The rain poured down. The car was about 200 yards away behind a four-foot high wooden fence.

"Let's hoof it," shouted farmer Darling. We ran across the field. When we reached the fence, Mr. Darling vaulted it with one hand. I tried the same and skinned my shins. But I didn't care. It had been a good day in the good life—farm life.

## Warsaw WI 1973 70th Anniversary

WARSAW — The Warsaw Women's Institute celebrated their 70th anniversary with 140 women present. The stage became a kitchen of seventy years ago, and the Warsaw women were gowned in the dress of that time. Mrs. Glen Britton, president, welcomed members from the other branches of the Peterborough district which were — Apsley, Chandos, Keene, Lakefield, Norwood, Otonabee West, Selwyn, South Smith, Trent River, Buckhorn, Belmont, Havelock and Westwood.

Provincial greetings were expressed by the Women's Institute of Ontario president, Mrs. Harry Noblitt, of Ottawa.

Mrs. Don Raddon, Lakefield, federated representative brought greetings from the east Peterborough district, and Mrs. James Bird, Brighton, provincial board member also expressed best wishes for future years.

Mrs. H. G. Digweed, Warsaw history curator, gave a very interesting account of the achievements of the Warsaw branch for the last 10 years which included having street light put in Warsaw, assisting in making the park in the centre of the village and giving \$1,000 towards artificial ice for the Warsaw arena.



THE DARLING CHILDREN ARE FOND OF ANIMALS  
Lynn, 11, with calf; they also have two dogs, four cats