

Chickens raised for show 1981

By LISA McKNIGHT
To most people chickens are cooked breasts and legs drenched with barbecue sauce, placed on the supper table; but to others they are

beautiful show birds and sometimes pets.

Ross Johnson of Burgessville has raised show chickens for 20 years. He, along with his two sons Jim

and Kenneth, show these birds across Canada. They have even travelled as far as Columbus, Ohio showing their birds and collecting numerous awards and

trophies.

Mr. Johnson's interest in chickens was aroused by his brother Wilf from Simcoe, who has raised show chickens for more than 30 years. Wilf took the championship for the white game bantams at the Otter Valley winter show in Tillsonburg this year, while his brother Ross took first place for the standards.

There are 20 breeds of chickens which Mr. Johnson raises. The main types are white plymouth rocks, silver pencils, and black austrolorps. They are kept in separate pens to avoid cross breeding. In the springtime they are put outside where they remain until fall when they are brought back into the barn and separated again.

"It's an expensive hobby," said Mr. Johnson, noting they are fed expensive prepared foods along with grain, wheat and corn. At present he spends approximately \$14 a week on

prepared foods alone.

Mr. Johnson displays his chickens at seven or eight shows a year. He said there is not that much time spent taking care of the chickens except at showtime when they must be bathed. That is quite a tough job, according to Mr. Johnson.

The local shows have 500-600 birds entered, but, Mr. Johnson has been at shows

with over 9,600 birds.

The judges of the shows look at the feather condition of the birds, their combs, eye and leg coloring.

Mr. Johnson is now preparing his chickens for the next poultry show in Paris on June 6.

"If they don't work out as showing chickens they will make good table birds," he said.



These chickens enjoy a stroll outside on a nice spring day after spending the winter indoors in a barn. They are show chickens which belong to Ross Johnson, who shows the birds across Canada. (NG Photo).

Philip M. Burtis

Philip Marshall Burtis of RR 2, Harley, passed away suddenly at Brantford General Hospital on Thursday, April 1, 1982, in his 63rd year.

Born at Hatchley, he was a son of the late Byron and Ella (Kelly) Burtis. Living in Woodstock for a very short time, he moved with his parents to the home farm in New Durham, which was settled by his great-grandfather Philip Kelly in the early 1840's, and resided there until his death. Mr. Burtis was a member and elder of the New Durham United Church which was destroyed in the 1979 tornado. Later he joined the Burgessville United Church and served there as an elder until his death. He was active in community affairs, having served on the Burford District High School Board for several years, on the Burford Fair Board as a director, was an acting member of the Holstein Association and was always available to help in the community.

Surviving are his wife, the former Gertrude Bishop; two sons, Barry Burtis of Burlington and Beverley Burtis, on the home farm; one daughter, Mrs. Paul (Brenda) Johnson of Harley; two grandsons Jeffrey and Gregory Burtis of Burlington; and a sister Mrs. Morley (Betty) Roswell of Brantford.

Rested at the Arn and Son Funeral Residence, Norwich, where service was held Saturday, April 3, with Rev. Cyril Dykes officiating.

During the service, Mrs. Donald Orth sang a solo "A Wayfaring Stranger" accompanied by Mrs. Harold Taylor.

Pallbearers were neighbors Bill Harley, Bill Hill, John McClellan, Grant Orth, Jack Silverthorn and Harold Taylor.

Interment in New Durham Cemetery.

THE WAY THINGS USED TO BE



THIS IS THE ONTARIO Hospital in April of 1924, seeding started that year about June 1. Included in the photo are Matthew Caskey,

Frank Morris and two men named Fletcher. Our thanks to Mr. Caskey for submitting the picture.

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