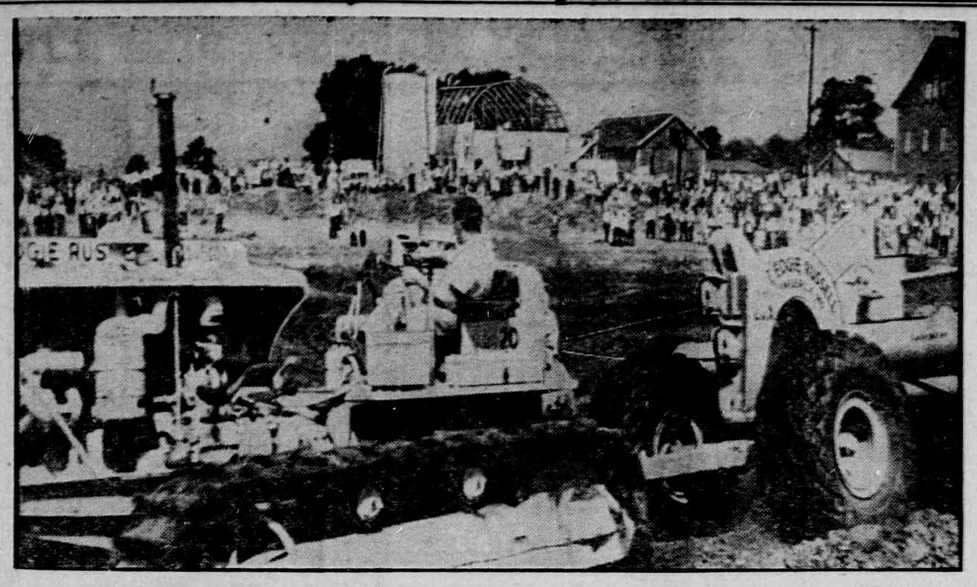


Farm Gets One-Day "Face Lifting"—Here are some of the 500 volunteer workers who in just eight hours more than doubled the value of a 175-acre farm. More about this interesting operation is told in our FARM FRONT column.

THE FARM FRONT

by John Russell

How would you like to wake up in the morning on your farm, worth approximately $13,000 and then realize, the same evening, it had more than doubled in value? It actually happened recently to a woman farm owner in Maryland—and if you think that she struck oil, gold, uranium or any other precious substance, you're mistaken.

* * *

The farm, owned by Mrs. Nelly Thrasher, is a hillside one of 175 acres. Some five hundred of her neighbors, using half a million dollars of equipment, gave it a "face lifting" which represented five years work accomplished in less than eight hours time.

* * *

When they were through, instead of rain-cut gullies which carried the topsoil away with every storm, there were diversion ditches and terraces dotting the landscape. The house gleamed with a frest coat of paint, and Mrs. Thrasher's thirty cows were in a new, modern barn. The whole farm, when the volunteer workers had finished, was representative of the latest methods of contouring and soil conservation.

One feature of the day's work—which was witnessed by an estimated 25,000 spectators—was the construction of an earthern dam between two hillocks. It held back a one-acre lake, well stocked with bass, and excess surface water from the diversion terraces will now flow into the pond instead of cutting new gullies.

* * *

Still and moving pictures of the entire action were taken from the ground and from the air, and will be used to help stimulate soil conservation practices throughout the world. I haven't seen them as yet, but the whole thing sounds like a grand idea, and one well worth copying nearer to home. In fact I'd be willing to make a small bet that among the readers of this column there would be one or two willing to offer their farms as an "experimental station," just as Mrs. Thrasher did.

* * *

"Use 2,4-D With Caution" is the heading of an editorial in The Country Gentleman, which goes on to say that investigations made to determine where and how this weed killer can be safely used have shown that almost unbelievably small amounts will destroy plants that are especially susceptible. A picture is shown of a ruined tomato plant which was hit by a 2,4-D spray of one - third normal weed - killing strength.

* * *

The U. S. Dept. of Agriculture is increasing its investigations regarding 2,4-D which, while recognized as a most valuable weed-killer, can be dangerous when improperly used. Most of the serious trouble has been the result of dusting from airplanes, with the dust drifting onto areas where it was not intended to fall. Such dusting from planes has now been forbidden. The restriction, however, does not apply to 2,4-D sprays.

* * *

In some of the states boys and girls are trying out a new livestock feeding project, and people are enthusiastic about the results. The boy or girl buys an average lot of feeder steers or lambs from a uniform herd or band—the number depending on finances, equipment and feed supplies available.

* * *

These lots of animals, bought at a central market, are taken home and fattened. Careful records are kept of feed costs and rates of gain. At the end of the feeding period they are shipped back to market and sold on Junior Marketing Day.

The boys and girls consign their animals to commission firms of their own choice. On arrival the animals are penned separately, according to ownership, and each lot is graded and weighed separately. Then all are assembled in pens according to grade— and are sold for slaughter in the usual manner. The boys and girls profit according to the market value of their animals.

* * *

Benefits claimed for the plan are that it promotes better farm feeding methods; that boys and girls learn about market grades of livestock; that they learn about central markets and how they operate; and that it is thoroughly practical. Sounds interesting, to say the least.

New — And All Of Them Useful

"Seweless" Buttons. Said to be a real improvement on the old "bachelor button" so popular 25 years or so ago. Made of plastic, this two-part button can be easily snapped into place, and should be a real improvement on its metal counterpart which was somewhat complicated, often rusted, and was too unattractive to be used except on work clothes. Makers claim it will withstand laundering, strong soaps, cleaning fluids, heat and the pressure of rollers of washing machines.

Aluminum Nails. Made for the building industry in six types and sixteen sizes these nails are said to have sufficient strength for any purpose and to be suitable for use with most types of building materials. Weigh only one-third as much as steel nails, giving three times as many per pound. Now in production in U.S.A. but no word as yet of their being available in Canada.

Sugar Substitute. Six hundred times as sweet as sugar these tablets are wholly non-nutritive, containing neither the calories which those seeking to reduce weight try to avoid, nor the carbohydrates harmful to diabetics.

For Tiny Travellers. Combination playpen and crib, weighs 37 pounds, folds into size 29 by 20 by 9 inches, looks and carries like a piece of luggage.

Pocket Stove. For campers, a portable stove that can be carried in pocket and burns either lighter fluid or gasoline without the use of a hand pump. Monel metal stove and grid fold into a compact package. Makers say tankful of fluid burns for an hour and a half.

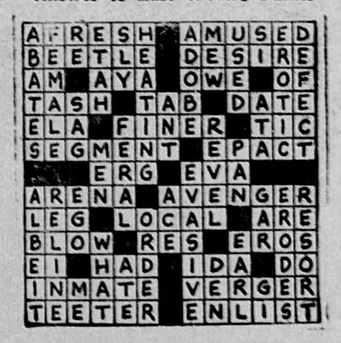
Plastic-Faced Hammer. Specially compounded plastic striking face can be used without danger of marring such surfaces as aluminum, polished woodwork etc. Hammer has drop forged head to which face is fastened, and retains driving power of ordinary hammers of equal weight.

New Liquid Plastic. Renews surfaces of painted or varnished floors, linoleums, woodwork, cars, furniture, silverware and household appliances.

Manufacturers says glossy, long-wearing finish will not crack or flake off, and is obtained simply by wiping the liquid on with a clean cloth. Impervious to heat, cold, moisture, caustic soaps, alcohol, fruit juices and most chemicals, and can be cleaned with damp cloth. One gallon covers approximately 1600 square feet.

To Keep Basements Dry. Recently developed is an electric dehumidifier about the size of a large ashcan. It keeps basements dry by sucking in the damp air, then cooling it enough to condense the moisture.

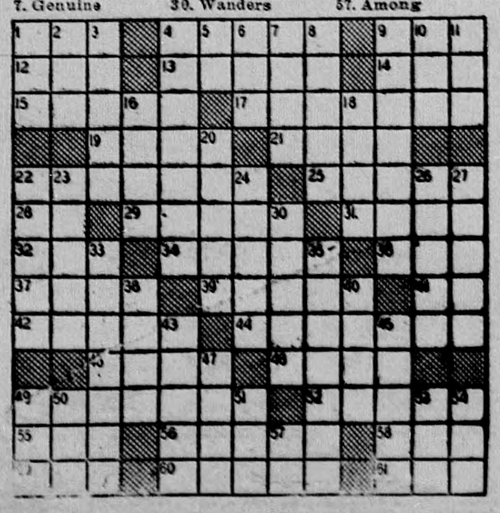
Answer to Last Week's Puzzle



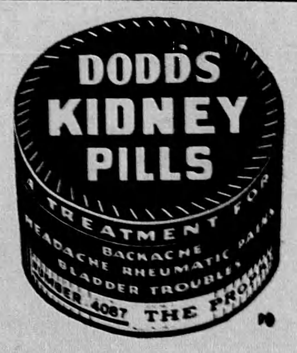
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1. Swamp
4. Nasal sound
9. Everybody
12. Manner
13. Tall structure
14. Contend
15. Poplar
17. Artlessness
19. Wharf
21. Reposed
22. Coal mine adjunct
25. Kind of beer
28. Three-toed sloth
29. At no time
31. Smooth
32. Ground pine
34. Warehouse
36. As written (mus.)
37. Relish
39. Town in Canada
41. English letter
42. Renaissance sword
44. Epistles
46. Anglo-Saxon moneys
48. Vessel
49. Couches
52. Fetters
55. Beard of grain
56. Carry away
58. Immerse
59. Marry
60. Hurled
61. Vermont village

DOWN
1. Bleat
2. Lubricate
3. Incline
4. Kept on hand
5. Negative
6. Possess
7. Genuine
8. Test
9. Exacts satisfaction
10. Ignited
11. Shelter
16. Sound of pain
18. Small bottle
20. Stoneworking hammer
22. Wool fabric
23. Splits
24. Drive off
26. Go in
27. Paper measures
30. Wanders
33. Amaze
35. Giving a tenth part
38. Pulled apart
40. Move
43. Pens
45. Poem
47. Deal in
49. Jurisprudence
50. Be under obligation
51. French coin
53. Nothing
54. Secret agent
57. Among



Answer to This Puzzle Will Appear Next Week



CHRONICLES OF GINGER FARM

by Gwendoline P. Clarke

Is there a cool breeze anywhere, I wonder—just one little spot where the thermometer doesn't register almost a hundred in the shade? Really, the heat this week has been terrific—but then you don't need me to tell you do you? The only thing to make it bearable is to remember that it can't last for ever. Even as I write clouds have actually appeared in the sky, breaking up the heavy heat haze that has hung over this poor scorched earth like a pall for the last six days. Who knows—maybe by the time this gets into print we may be donning our sweaters. Oh, happy thought.

Speaking of sweaters reminds me . . . A newcomer to this country, and speaking very little English, mopped her brow and asked hesitantly—"Wet—what you say for wet?" Her employer smiled and said—"Well, if you are a lady, you say "perspire" but men quite often say "sweat." The girl was thoughtful for a few minutes then she said—"Ah yes, yes—I understand . . . perspire and sweat—same thing. Then you say cows perspire, bull, he sweat? That right—yes?"

Here is another little story which doesn't belong to Ginger Farm but it did happen in this district.

Three men and a dog were working in a nearby bush, drawing logs, I believe, and of course, not paying very much attention to the dog, who was amusing himself as dogs will, chasing rabbits or sniffing around for other legitimate game. Suddenly the men heard the dog yelping piteously and he ran towards them obviously in terrible pain. The reason was soon discovered. The dog had found—and grabbed—a porcupine, no less! Between them the men tried to release some of the quills from the poor dog's hide but their attempts to help so plainly increased his agony that they soon gave it up. So they brought him home and called on a neighbour to bring his gun and put the poor thing out of its misery. Instead of that the neighbour suggested asking the "vet" if there was anything he could do. "Sure," was the answer, "bring him down and we'll fix him."

So the dog was rushed to the veterinary office where he was immediately given an anaesthetic and was soon mercifully unconscious of his pain. Then the "vet" went to work and pulled out over a hundred porcupine quills. They were everywhere, especially around the poor dog's mouth and throat. When it was thought all the quills had been removed the dog's master took him home, still unconscious, and thus he remained for almost eight hours. Yesterday I saw him—that was the day following his adventure—he was still very weak and quite evidently far from happy, but he was able to walk around slowly and would eat and drink when he felt like it. The "vet" thought that in a day or two he would be completely recovered. I wonder will he recognize a porcupine next time he sees one.

As I undestand it a porcupine is quite harmless unless attacked when it has the power to shed its quills, which probe the flesh of its victims and cannot be removed without great pain because the end of each quill is shaped like a sharp hook.

I wonder what we would do if Tippy got into such a mix-up? Maybe a painless death is really the kinder solution but then, if a family pet can be saved, it is only natural one should want to keep it alive.

Tippy, these days, is spending much of her time in the coal cellar where there is a dirt floor which she finds cool and comfortable. "Leading a dog's life" is surely a misnomer if ever there was one. It might better be called an ideal existence compared with us poor humans who work and swelter in this hundred-degree heat. Yesterday our men both had threshings to go to and today Bob is sweating it out on the tractor. As for Cicely and I, we are doing as little, wearing as little, and worrying as little as we possibly can. But it doesn't make any difference — even doing nothing at all would be hard work these days.

STOP PRESS NEWS: Sunday night and, glory be, it's cooler! Tomorrow we head for the Exhibition.

The Mediterranean Sea has an area of about 1,008,000 square miles including the Tyrrhenian, Ionian, Adriatic and egean seas.

MR. PILE SUFFERER

What a vast difference there is in the modern way to treat Piles. The necessity of removing the real cause is only plain common sense. The new PYLTONE treatment (a liquid taken by mouth) goes direct to the inside cause. Special gums, plant extracts that help nature rebuild those delicate tissues. PYLTONE Pile Treatment is science's answer. It gets you satisfactory results with a one bottle trial or price refunded at once at all modern druggists.

Canada's Finest — IN THE SERVICE OF THE PUBLIC

THE RURAL MAIL DRIVER

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Inconvenience and self-sacrifice are this man's constant companions. Yet his most cherished rewards are the friendly words and the eager pleasures which greet his coming.

Men like this, some of Canada's finest, are in the public's service—at *your* service.

DAWES BLACK HORSE BREWERY

One of a series of advertisements in tribute to those Canadians in the service of the public