



Haltom Farmers See Strip Coal Mining in Ohio

As a side issue to the conservation and crop loss made by the joint group of Haltom and Haldiman farmers to Ohio recently, they were taken to the strip coal mining area near Cadiz. Here the seams of soft coal approximately four feet in depth are some sixty to seventy feet below the surface. This makes mining below the ground too dangerous. Consequently they use huge electrically driven shovels to clean the sixty or seventy feet of earth and rock off the coal. One of these huge shovels 117 ft. from the base to the top of the crane was inspected with keen interest by the group. Reported to be the largest in the world, and costing over one million dollars, it moves 50 cubic yards at once. It operates 24 hours per day and each delay of one minute means a loss of 7 to 8 dollars to the owners. Once the 60 or 70 feet of earth is removed another huge shovel fills the waiting trucks. The one machine can keep trucks rolling out with 8 to 10 tons of coal every three-quarters of a minute.

Strip coal mining does result in a desolate looking countryside but the conservation people level off the area where mining operations are completed and grass and trees will once again soon cover the countryside.

As a final feature of the first day's programme, the group of 77 were the guests of the New Philadelphia Rotary Club at dinner. Visit Blubaugh and Malabar Farms. The second day's program included a brief stop at the Mohawk dam, lunch at the Mohican State Forest, and visits to the famous Blubaugh and Malabar farms, and in the evening three hours were spent at the Northern Ohio Artificial Breeding Unit at Tiffin. At this latter point they have a stud which includes batteries of Holsteins, Jerseys, Guernseys, Browns, Swines, Ayrshires, Shorthorns, Angus and Hereford sires. In 1949 they bred 68,000 cows, and recently initiated shipping semen out by plane to branch units two to three hundred miles from headquarters.

However, the visits to Blubaugh and Malabar farms were the highlights of a splendid program. The group was particularly impressed at the first point where the owner, Combs Blubaugh, the "grand old man of Ohio agriculture," told his story to the group. Mr. Blubaugh bought the badly run down 140 acre farm in 1924 for \$4,400. His total capital was \$4,200 which indicates that he started from scratch. His livestock the first year consisted of three cows, three horses, and some thirty odd sheep. That the fertility level was very low is substantiated by the fact that despite the fact that he and two sons cut and hauled all available hay off the surrounding 12000 acres, he still had to buy three loads of hay to carry his livestock over winter. The farm is very rolling, shaped more or less like bowl, and here contour ploughing and cultivation and strip cropping is a must. Mr. Blubaugh gives a good deal of credit to his county agent, soils specialist, and officials of the experimental station. For his success, Strawberries and raspberries helped to tide him over the earlier years while he undertook to build up his land, field by field. That he has succeeded will be realized when we tell you that he had just completed filling a ten by twenty-five foot silo with grass silage of three and a half acres. Today he and his two sons own and operate over 200 acres, of which some 40 acres is in orchard. A visit to his black raspberry plantation amazed everyone. Never had anyone in the seventy-five seen bushes so heavily laden. Needless to add, nothing in the way of organic matter is wasted on this farm. Even the old crows, grass and weeds are disced back into the ground between rows and heavy mulching with straw is practiced. Contour cultivation and strip cropping holds the moisture in the land. Now instead of torrents rushing away at the time of spring freshets, a five inch overflow pipe from his farm pond carries off the excess water. In short, Cosmos Blubaugh has converted the badly run down desert into a very productive farm unit. True, in that part of Ohio they receive 35 to 40 inches of precipitation annually. This is about ten inches more than we get here in Halton. Nevertheless, he has done a great job and the members of the party will not forget the lessons to be learned at Blubaugh farm.

At Malabar Farm we were greeted by Louis Bromfield in person. The famous Louis was at lunch but he called out, "I'll be with you in 10 or 15 minutes," so we took a look around his barn, including the loafing stable and milking parlor. Frankly there was nothing fancy about his barn or stables-in fact they were very ordinary. Grass

was being ensiled—they use a forage crop harvester and it follows immediately after the mower and rake. Before being blown into the silo whole oats and wheat were scattered over each truck load of cut grass and clover (alfalfa, bromegrass and ladino) at the rate of 100 lbs per ton. Louis, with a pair of his famous boxer dogs, soon appeared in person clad in an old pair of trousers and a blue shirt, a huge rip in which revealed a brawny shoulder. When he saw the size of our group he had one of his men rig up a public address system on the station wagon. Soon the entire group were seated on the lawn in front of his home, rambling yet beautiful white frame house. In an informal 30 to 40 minutes talk he sketched his program at Malabar, outlining scientific facts to back up his "new agriculture." He pointed out that when he took over the farms at Malabar, they were deserted and run down. The people who had owned them could not make a living and had left. One hundred acres would not feed five cows for four months he said. Today Malabar feeds scores of cattle and the hay crop is so heavy some of it is used for bedding. "What we have done here is not an operation which any farmer could not do," stated Mr. Bromfield. He stated that "ignorant, traditional and greedy agriculture" had reduced the productivity of many farms to a low level. The form of agriculture carried out at Malabar and which he recommended to farmers, not only remedied that condition but had built up the soil to such a high degree in minerals and plant food that concentrates and mineral boxes in the cattle pens were not needed. He said that mineral boxes were there but the cattle rarely touched them, deriving all the trace minerals necessary for production and health from the hay, grass silage and pastures. He further stated that, for several years a veterinarian had not been required at the farm except in the case of accident or for testing. The health of the cattle at Malabar, as the soil's fertility was built up, likewise increased until both were now at maximum.

Green Gold

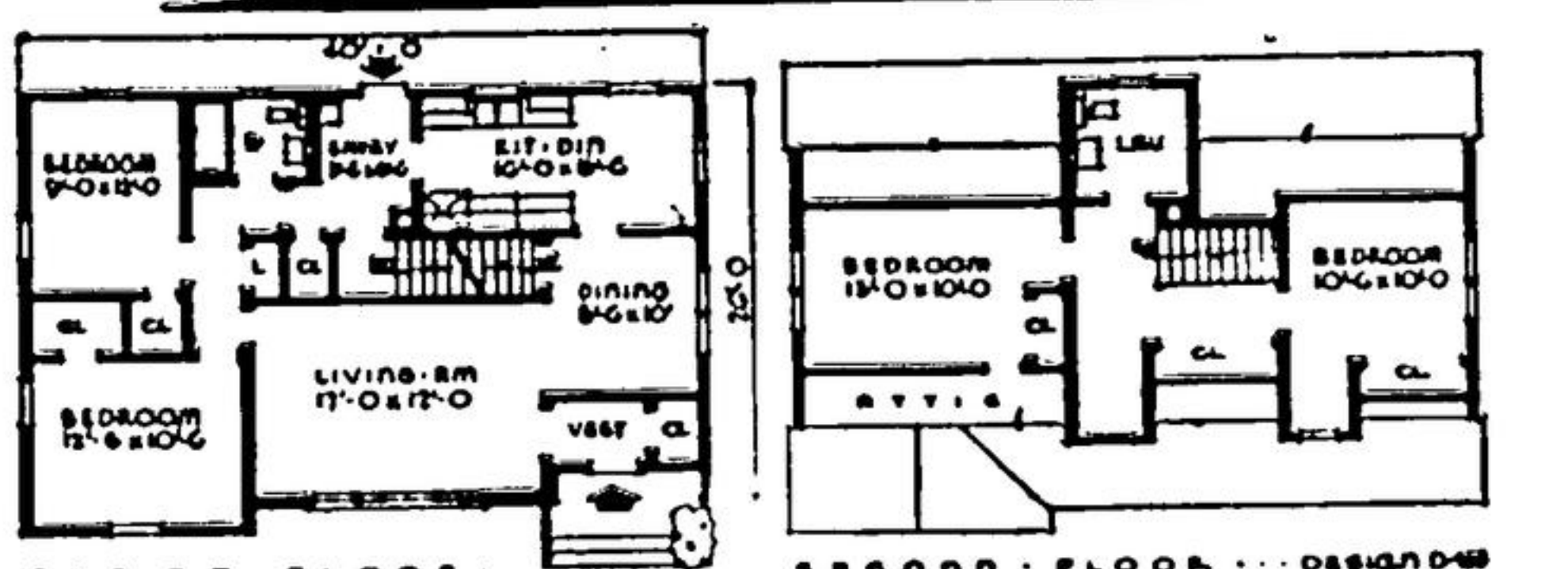
"We have lots of grass at Malabar and it is grass which makes our money." "We buy no supplements, and no cows, with the exception of those milking, receive grain other than mixed into the silage at time of filling." Mr. Bromfield stated that with the grasses and legumes grown at Malabar, milk production differed very little from summer through fall, winter, and spring. He is a great booster for alfalfa. He said it opened up the soil, added fertility and was considered the leading legume at Malabar.

In next week's column we shall try to present some of the highlights of soil building at Malabar.

Haltom Juniors Stage Field Day at Halton Community Park. The Halton Community Park at Lowville was the mecca for Haltom Juniors from all sections of the County, on Saturday last. Softball tournaments were perhaps the highlight of the afternoon programme, supervised by President Stan Jay. In the first round Milton boys eliminated Brookville Juniors, while Acton boys defeated Palermo. In the finals, Milton Junior Farmers triumphed over Acton. The young ladies also staged a series of thrilling games—Milton girls defeating Brookville, and Palermo eliminating Acton. The Palermo girls in the finals with Milton won the right to represent Halton at the Western Ontario Junior Farmer Field Day to be held in Guelph.

A tug of war tournament was a new feature and created a lot of fun and enthusiasm. Acton, Brookville, Milton, Norval, and Palermo Clubs were each represented by a team of eight stalwarts. Milton Club not only won the right to represent Halton at Guelph, but for good measure took on a team representing the Kingsway Kiwanis Club. Although outwaged by a good margin the Milton Juniors took the Kiwanians two straight.

During the afternoon the young ladies coached by Miss Joan Somerville of Acton, selected a volleyball team to represent the County, at Guelph. Kingsway Kiwanians Guests of Halton. For the past three years the members of the Kingsway Kiwanis Club have annually donated several Short Course Scholarships to Halton Juniors. As a result of an invitation extended, some 25 or 30 members of the Club and their families were guests of the Halton Federation of Agriculture and Halton Junior Farmers, for a picnic supper. Warden W. VanSickle, and Paul A. Fisher extended a welcome on



THE DALE is a story and a half house that has two bedrooms on each floor. The stairway is closed so the second floor can be finished later. An open stair can be substituted if the second floor is finished now. All rooms can be reached from the rear entry which has a lavatory and coat closet and leads to the basement. Kitchen cabinets occupy one end of the combination kitchen-dinette with sink on exterior wall and refrigerator and stove on the inside. On the second floor, a lavatory is located in the rear dormer and attic storage, as well as closet storage, is well provided. Exterior finish is of asphalt shingles and wide siding except for the front living room wall which is faced with stone. Other features include a covered entrance and plywood dormers and front gable and wrought iron railing. The dimensions of the Dale are 40 feet by 25 feet. Total area equals 1,042 square feet while the plans call for a subgrade of 4,400 cubic feet.

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NEXT TEN YEARS BELONG TO NEWFOUNDLAND

Canada's new island province is gradually settling in after her hectic first year within Confederation, and the next 10 years are her's to make of what she will. In a big Newfoundland section, The Financial Post reviews developments of that first year and prospects for the future. Union did not automatically solve all Newfoundland's problems. Post writer Rupert Jackson reports from St. John's. It did help some, but it also brought new problems with it. Future possibilities are keyed to four basic points: fishing, forestry, mining and hydro power. In fishing, the development will move toward bigger vessels faster and a high powered consumer advertising campaign. "To make Newfoundland the greatest fish producing area in the world." Forestry development is expected to bring a new pulp and paper mill on the south shore, and expansion in the manufacture of wood products, boxes, cartons, etc. Labrador forests may yield riches too. The Labrador-Quebec iron development is No. 1 project in mining, with surveys going forward in other areas as well. Cheap hydro power from many potential sites on the island is the telling factor in bringing new secondary industries. A four million horsepower project at Grand Falls, Labrador, is in the wind.

Out look for spring grain production at the beginning of June this year was rather mixed over Ontario, the Statistics Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture, reports.

Now It's the Drive-In Bank On West Coast

The first drive-in office of a Canadian chartered bank opened for business in Vancouver on Monday. A branch of the Bank of Montreal designed to serve our highly mobile age, the new bank provides speedy efficient service for motorists at its outdoor drive-in wicket, a car parking lot, and even an indoor parking space for baby's pram. Motorists intending to cash a cheque or make a deposit at the B of M's drive-in wicket, enter a driveway at the rear of the bank, conduct their business without leaving their cars and continue on out. The bullet-proof glass wicket is equipped with an inter-communication system to make conversation between teller and customer easier and a buzzer to summon the teller if she happens to be away.

No More Baby Sitters. The bank's second special feature is its indoor parking space for baby carriages. The carriages are easily wheeled in through the front door, and can be left in safety while the lady of the house does her banking. Modern in appearance, both inside and out, the new branch is equipped with all the latest banking facilities, including fire and burglar-proof vaults and a large safety deposit section. The large plate-glass windows on three sides, soft pastel color scheme, flush-ceiling lighting and sloping bronze teller's screens give the whole office a clean functional look. The opening of this ultra-modern branch is another example of the B of M's close connection with the expansion of the West. From the first, the bank placed its resources to a marked degree behind the building of the first trans-continental railway by the Canadian Pacific. This achievement, perhaps more than any other factor, was responsible for the opening up of the West and for welding the provinces with bonds of steel, into one united country.

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