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Chronicles



Ginger Farm

Written Specially for the Acton Free Press by Gwendolyn F. Clarke

Like the sundial, it will make better reading for this column if I only sound the hours, rather than otherwise it might read like a chapter of woe, what with storms, power and telephone interruptions, wet weather and our work and worry trying to get hay into the barn between the terrific storms and the heavy rains which came along every other day of last week. It was with heart-felt relief that we saw the last load of baled hay go into the mow Saturday night just as overhanging clouds treated us to another deluge.

Now it is Monday morning—the beginning of a new week, with all last week's troubles behind us. Some of our young friends have just left for their various destinations after spending the week-end with us. Yesterday we had a lovely drive and saw a few beauty spots that I have always wanted to visit. We never get very far from home in our own car as my limit for driving is within a thirty mile radius. After that it ceases to be a pleasure.

Our first stop was the Dundas Look-Out. The view was certainly worth the trip. From the Look-Out

one can almost see the valley below. Houses, cars and people appeared, as it were, in a miniature, scenic panorama, such as one often sees at the Exhibition. The day was marvellously clear so we were able to see for miles and miles and could quite easily distinguish various buildings in the Hamilton area.

Leaving the Look-Out we continued on our way along a winding road—on one side a jagged limestone bank, on the other a ravine. In early days this road must surely have been an Indian trail—it had more twists and turns than a snake-rail fence. Our next stop was McMaster University in Hamilton. The formal gardens were a striking contrast to the wild, rugged beauty of Dundas. There was dignity and beauty in the University gardens which was entirely in keeping with the stately architecture of the University itself. It reminded me a little of some of the colleges in Cambridge.

We paid a brief visit to the Rock Gardens. It didn't take me long to decide that the best time to visit the Rock Gardens is in late spring. Of course it has its summer beauty but there isn't as much colour now as one finds in the spring. True, flower beds along the walks were gay with colour, as were the lily pools, but there were very few plants in bloom among the steep, terraced rocks. In spring flowers of every hue fill every crack and crevice of the rocks.

Our next stop was Lowville Park. This I was anxious to see as it is a project for which the Federation of Agriculture has been responsible, with the idea of providing a recreation centre and picnic grounds for local farm organizations. It is a well-chosen site. A tree-shaded stream with water as clear as crystal insures safe paddling and swimming for youngsters. There are also swings and slides, and a building specially constructed for convenience as a refreshment booth when required. There is also plenty of parking space and a flood-lighted baseball diamond.

Apparently other counties have also carried-out experiments along

this line. It has been felt in some cases that city folk have a wide choice in amusement centres but that very few parks are available for country people in their own communities. The question is, how much use will the country folk make of the parks if and when they have them? Country folk have a way of drifting towards the cities for pleasure, just as they do for jobs.

And that reminds me of an editorial which appeared last week in the Globe and Mail, it was called "Warning from Australia". Briefly, Australia's population is rising. Her food production is not enough to export and she may soon have to import it. And the basic cause is because people don't want to work on the land—they prefer industry's high wages and short hours. Farm labor, skilled or unskilled, can hardly be had at any price.

The farmer there, as here, reacts accordingly. He cannot go on a forty-hour week—the cows won't let him. His only way out is low production, that is if he cannot afford high priced machinery. "And who can blame him? Why should people getting 1951 wages expect butter and cheese at 1930 prices? Why should people working on a five-day level expect farmers to produce on a seven-day level? Why, indeed? We, too, would like the answer to that question. Last year Canada imported butter from New Zealand—it may have been the thin edge of the wedge. Many thinking farmers have already seen the writing on the wall and realize that agriculture is facing greater difficulties now than at any time in its history.

One might almost say that writing from Australia."

Think Twice Before Tonsil Operation!

Once tonsils were yanked on the slightest pretext or none. Today, medical science takes a different view. Writing of the functions of tonsils and the dangers of tonsillectomy, in the May Reader's Digest, Lois Mattox Miller says: "Tonsils are now recognized as part of the lymphatic system which has the important job of trapping, destroying and draining off infection before it can penetrate deeper. . . . Tonsil flare-ups occur most frequently in children under ten. At this age the body is waging a constant fight against a host of infections, building up immunities that will last a lifetime. Immunization will increase steadily if the tonsils are left intact, even though they occasionally become swollen and inflamed."

Definitely infected tonsils should of course be removed, says Miss Miller's article, condensed from Today's Health, but tonsils that are merely inflamed are often warning signs of other trouble, such as bad teeth, sinus infection or allergy. "Tonsil surgery in such cases is like trying to put out the fire by silencing the alarm!"

In recent years many parents and doctors have considered tonsils useless, disease-breeding organs, and a surgical crusade was organized against them. School nurses and medical examiners have been responsible for many needless tonsillectomies. Any child with enlarged tonsils was likely to be sent home with a note recommending the operation. Throat specialists, however, now urge public health authorities that this practice is unwise.

Surveys during polio epidemics have indicated that polio incidence was three times greater among children whose tonsils had recently been removed. Tonsil operations should never be performed when polio is present in the vicinity, the author warns.

Fashion Hint



Our minds are full of holidays—(there will be no paper next Thursday)—and our fashion recommendation this week is precisely as follows: The smartest way to wear a bathing suit this weather is under water. Do it this year's, last year's, or the year before's swim suit, dip it as often as possible in cool lake or river.

Net Egg Production Declines Last Year

Canadian net egg production declined three per cent in 1950, Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures show.

An estimated 333.6 million dozen eggs produced in 1950, 343.8 million dozen in 1949. Farm production was 305.2 million dozen in 1950.

Farm flocks averaged 24.4 million layers, a five per cent decrease, but the rate of eggs laid per hundred layers rose from 14,746 to 15,090.

Exports decreased about 28 million dozen but domestic disappearance rose 14 million dozen.

Poultry meat production was 308.7 million pounds. Per capita consumption of poultry meat was 22 pounds compared with 21.5 pounds in 1949.

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