

# CANADIAN PLOWMEN ABROAD

by ROY SHAYER, Past President  
ONTARIO PLOWMEN'S ASSOCIATION



**EDITOR'S NOTE**—Roy Shayer of Finch, Ont., past president of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, accompanied Douglas S. Reid of Brampton, Ont., and Algie Wallace of North Gower, Ont., Canada's champion plowman, on their trip to the British Isles, Eire and to France. This is the first of a series of five weekly articles he has written as team manager about their experiences and impressions.

By Roy Shayer

It hardly seems possible that this is 1953 and it is two months since the three of us took off by air to start another Canadian plowmen's tour of the British Isles and to compete against European plowmen.

By the time we returned we had experienced our first "pea-souper"—the worst fog in London's recent history—visited Canadian war graves in France, seen some of the finest agricultural land in the world, and rubbed shoulders with, and spoken to, representatives of almost every nationality you can think of.

**"How Come"**  
However, before I tell you more about the trip, I had better tell you something about us, and how we came to make the journey.

For the past seven years the grand prize of the Ontario Plowmen's Association annual International Plowing Match has been a gold medal and a trip to Europe for the champion horse and tractor plowman, with all expenses paid by Imperial Oil. The prizes are offered for the winners of a special class known as the Esso Trans-Atlantic class.

The winners at last October's match held at Carp, near Ottawa, were 29 year old Douglas S. Reid, of Brampton, Ont., in the tractor class, and 35 year old Algie Wallace, of North Gower, Ont., in the horse class. Algie's win was a matter of great pride in eastern Ontario. He was the first plowman to bring a championship to the eastern counties in the 39 year history of the O. P. A.

Each year it is the custom of the O.P.A. to select a team manager to accompany the plowmen. In addition to acting as manager, he also is the group's official chronicler and reporter. I consider it a great honor to have been chosen. I am a director and past president of the O.P.A., and have been a lifelong dairy farmer at Finch in Ontario's Stormont County.

**Write at End**  
You are probably wondering why we did not write, while we were overseas. There are two reasons. It has been the practice in past years for the winning plowmen to make their overseas visit in January and February. In time to participate in the Northern Ireland International Match at Belfast. This time the O.P.A. directors decided we should make our trip almost immediately after the International match and compete instead in the British National Ploughing match at Falkirk, Scotland. During the match there was to be a trial of a set of rules that had been proposed for international plowing competition. The O.P.A. was anxious for Canadian plowmen to take part in this trial.

Leaving at that time also allowed me to sit in with J. D. Thomas of Toronto, the O.P.A.'s special delegate, at the 11 nation conference at Stirling, Scotland, which decided to hold the first world plowing match in Canada this fall.

**Little Preparation**  
However, the early November departure meant there was little time for preparation of many things, among them arrangements with weekly editors for publication of our letters to you. A quick poll taken among editors of our acquaintance showed they thought it would be better if we related our experiences after our return for

publication after the Christmas rush. So for the next few weeks we will try to recall for you the things that impressed us most and some of the wonderful people we met during the trip.

**Amazing English Spirit**  
I think I can say without hesitation that the one thing that impressed us most, and certainly the thing that will live in my memory for a long time, was the amazing spirit of the people of England.

Reading newspaper accounts and predictions of approaching national bankruptcy, scarcity of food and high taxes, we had expected to meet gloomy, disgruntled people. Though bomb damage still scars acres of London (we saw only one new building), the people we met never once mentioned the war, the high taxes which are even now still paying for war, or the stringent rationing which is another holdover from those bleak years. Had we not known better we could have concluded there never had been a war or rationing.

**Tea and Butter Rations**  
It is easy to be generous when one has plenty, but it is quite a different matter to be generous on the meagre rations which Britons have to put up with for the past 13 years. I can remember sitting down to tea in the dining room of a quaint oak-beamed house 400 years old. On the table were hot scones dripping with butter. The butter represented some two weeks' ration for our hosts, but that was a subject that was never discussed.

Don't misunderstand me. It isn't a mood of resignation. It is rather a spirit of "There's no use whining about all this." We went into it with our eyes open, so we'll see it through."

When we remembered some of the complaining and growling that goes on over here, I think we all felt a little ashamed.

**English Politeness**  
Together with this wonderful spirit was an extreme politeness on the part of the English. We met it through England. After the raring, learing, "let's get there in a hurry" rudeness that it seems to me, is so general here, it was as refreshing as a summer rain.

On the platform of London's St. Pancras station our tall, white western-style hats, decorated with a maple leaf, revealed us as strangers. Within a few minutes six people approached us, smilingly said "Hallo", and asked if there was anything they could do for us. That sort of thing happened to us wherever we went.

**Beauty of War Graves**  
Another thing that made a strong impression was the breathtaking beauty of the war graves I visited during a two-day trip we made to France. The cemeteries and graveyards of our soldiers who fell in the two world wars would stand comparison with the finest parks in the world. No monument could better show our gratitude than these acres of green grass, beautiful flowers and simple white crosses, that reveal the most loving and tender care.

I am afraid I have rambled a little in this first letter, but in those that follow I will trace our path through the British Isles and hope that you will get as much enjoyment from the telling as we did from the doing.

## R. W. Egles Heads Hydro Inspection

Hydro Chairman Robert H. Saunders has announced the appointment of R. W. Egles as Electrical Inspection Superintendent for Hydro's West Central Region, which includes this district. Mr. Egles' duties will be to guide and advise Area Inspectors located at Beaufort, Simcoe, Hamilton, Kitchener, Stratford, Guelph, Listowel and Burlington offices.

Mr. Egles has been with Hydro's electrical inspection department since his discharge from the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1917. From that time until 1930, he inspected insulators, cable, clamps and other materials used on transmission lines. From 1930 to 1941, he continued this work and added inspection of electrical equipment at Westinghouse and other plants. He devoted his full time to electrical inspection work from 1941 until 1948 when he was appointed Area Electrical Inspector at Hamilton, in which post he served until his present appointment.

## PUPPETS IN PARIS

A Parisian had to entertain a Russian visitor. He took the man to the theatre. No reaction. He took him to the ballet. No reaction. He took him to a wrestling match, a debate in the Assembly, a skating rink, a newscast. No reaction. Full of despair the Parisian suggested a promenade in the Champs-Élysées, and there they came upon a performance of a children's marionette show.

"Ah!" cried the Russian rapturously, seating himself on a bench. "Puppets! Now I feel at home!"

In 1941 the average number of persons per Canadian household was four and a quarter; in 1951 the average was four.

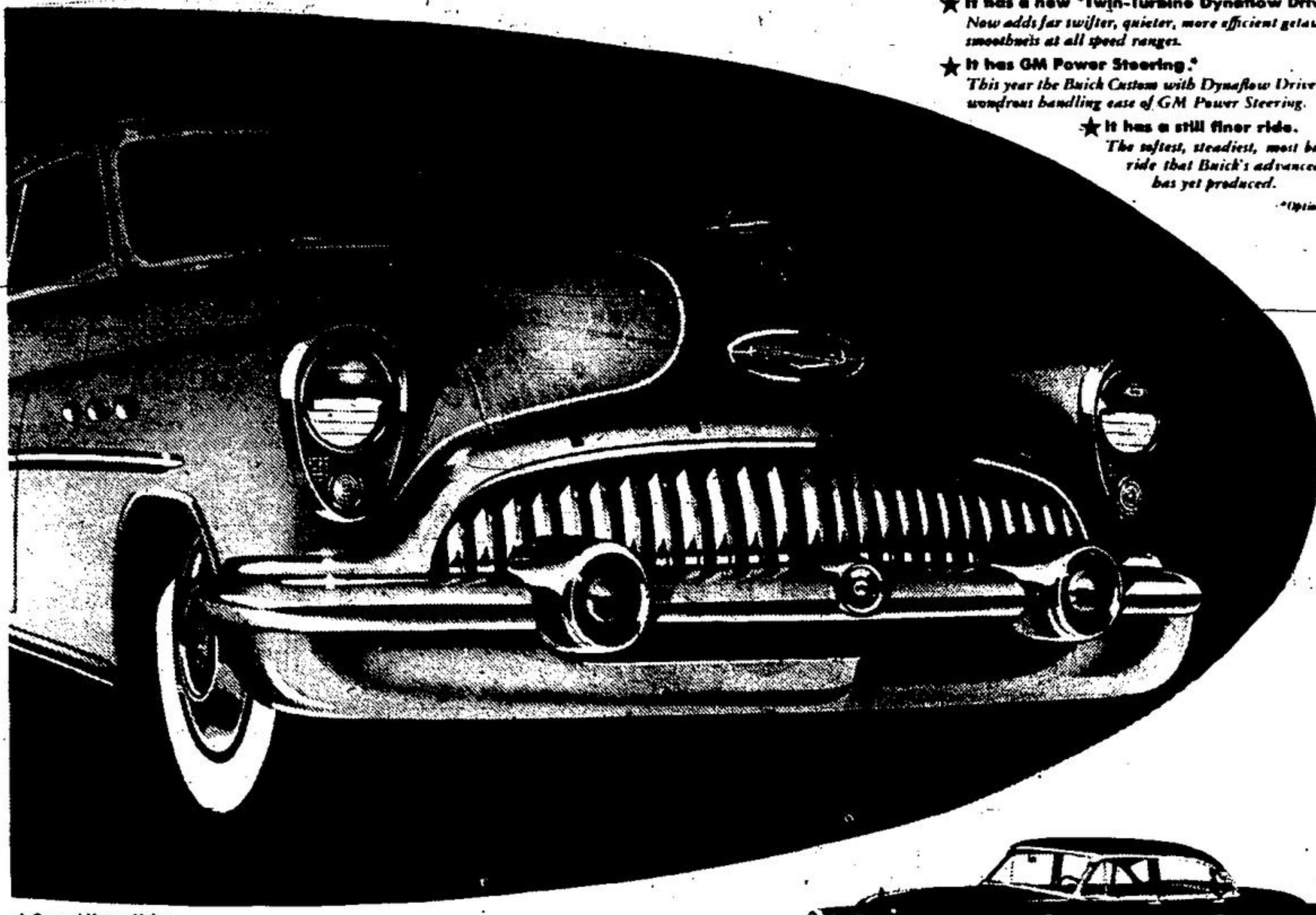
## New Illustrations Put Punch in Ads

Any regular advertiser or local residents with occasional advertisements for the paper will be interested to know that a new mat book has arrived. This February book has many illustrations on varied topics and articles which will undoubtedly add to the "selling power" of your ad.

Put punch in what you plan to say whether it is a sale announcement, a bazaar, a special speaker, a meeting, a service to sell. The book may be seen anytime during office hours and illustrations selected.

Canada's Quality Tea  
**"SALADA"**  
ORANGE PEKOE

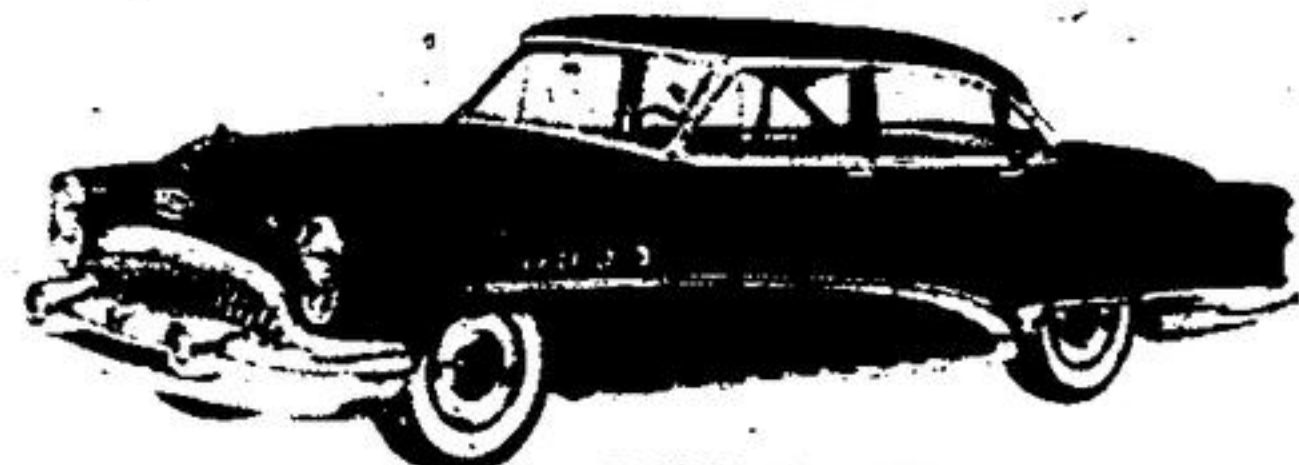
# ANNOUNCING BUICK'S GREATEST CARS IN 50 GREAT YEARS



A General Motors Value



Buick SUPER 4-Door Riviera Sedan



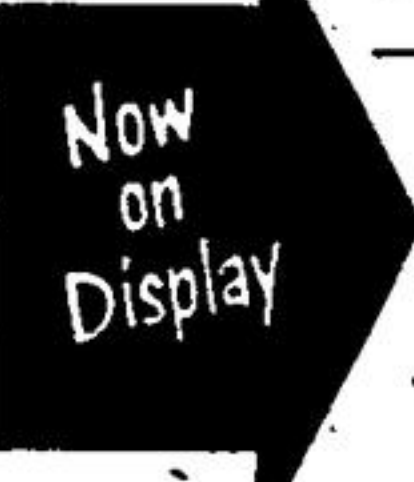
Buick ROADMASTER 4-Door Riviera Sedan

## WORLD'S NEWEST V8 POWERS The Super-The Roadmaster

Yes, there's wonderful news about the 1953 Buick SUPERS and ROADMASTERS, too. For instance, they're powered by a completely new V-8 engine with one of the highest compression ratios in the industry. It develops 188 horsepower for Roadmaster, 170 for the Dynaflo-equipped Super, and it's so compact that a new, more manoeuvrable chassis has been built around it!

But no listing of facts and figures can do justice to the phenomenal Golden Anniversary Buicks. No words can really tell you the beauty you see, the comfort you feel, the excitement you experience when you make first-hand acquaintance with these big, beautiful, bounteous Buick Customs and Supers and Roadmasters for '53.

So come in and see for yourself that these are, in simple truth, Buick's greatest cars in 50 great years!



# Lorne Garner Motors

Main at Bower

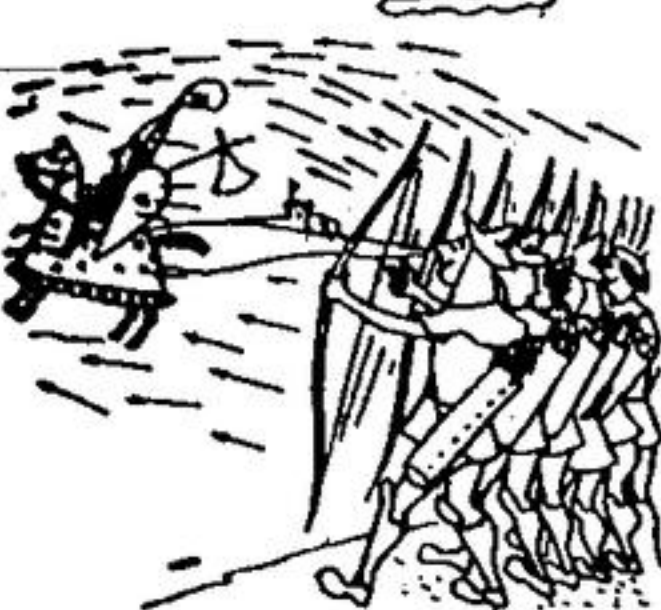
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Algie Wallace



## Too late for Agincourt

EVEN THE BOWMEN who toppled armor-plated knights at Agincourt would have been impressed by the range of a modern aluminum bow used at a recent British archery championship. It shot the winning arrow a distance of 353 yards. Made of a special alloy, the bow had a tensile strength of thirty-two tons!

While sturdy aluminum is playing an essential part in Canadian defence production for the free world, we're afraid the new aluminum bow is a little late for defence use in our stonier age. Aluminum Company of Canada, Ltd. (Alcoa).

## Memo to all sidewalk superintendents



Next time you watch a construction job, remember—you may have a closer connection with it than you think! If you own life insurance, that connection could be very close. Some of your premium money might be helping to pay the cost of digging that gaping pit. For, every year, hundreds of millions of dollars are invested for policyholders in ways that provide many kinds of buildings. Homes, schools, power plants, waterworks... these are but a few of the projects which life insurance money helps develop. All this building creates jobs too. Not only jobs for builders, but for workers in new or expanded industries from coast to coast. So anyone who owns life insurance is doing more than providing financial security for himself and his family. He also helps make Canada a better land to live in!

THE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES IN CANADA

"It is Good Citizenship to own Life Insurance" L-10520