

### FIVE PLAYS JUDGED AT FIRST ANNUAL HALTON JUNIORS' DRAMA FESTIVAL

On Friday, February 13, 1953 at Oakville High School the Halton Junior Farmers held their first annual drama festival. This is the first time the Halton Juniors have staged such an event and, judging from the applauding of over 400 people in the auditorium, everyone enjoyed the evening immensely.

The first play of the evening was presented by the Brookville Junior Farmers under the direction of Mrs. M. Mahon. The title was "In Doubt About Daisy". The second play, the winning one, was presented by the Palermo Junior Farmers under the coaching of Miss Florence Meares. The title was "The Tenth of the Gift Horse" and members of the cast were Evelyn Oates, Edwin Tyrell, Dianne Abbott, Marjorie Segsworth, Mary Pope and Harold Tyrell. Third play presented by the Milton club, was entitled "The Bishop's Candlesticks" and coached by Evelyn Course and Mrs. A. J. McArthur.

The fourth play, presented by the Acton Junior Farmers, "Henry's Mail Order Wife" was coached by

Ralph McKeown. The fifth and final play was presented by the Norval Junior Farmers. The title was "Bambino in Haircuts" and the coaches were Mrs. Graydon and Miss Charlotte McCullough.

Between plays, David Felletto, provincial president of the Ontario Junior Farmers, assisted by Mrs. George Newell at the piano, led the audience in lively sing songs. J. E. Whitlock, Agriculture Representative of Halton County and his assistants, Art Bennett, spoke briefly during the evening.

The W. I. Dick trophy for the winning play was presented to Miss Florence Meares, the coach of the Palermo play, by K. Y. Dick on behalf of his father.

The Harold Tyrell trophy for the best actress of the 1953 Drama Festival was presented to Evelyn Oates by Harold Tyrell, donor of the trophy, who is president of the Palermo Junior Farmers and first vice president of the Halton County Juniors.

The Mac Sprowl trophy for the best actor of the evening was presented to Stuart McFadden, President of the Milton Junior Farmers by Mac Sprowl, donor of the trophy, who is county president of the Halton Junior Farmers.

The adjudicator of the evening was A. State of Hamilton who gave some worthwhile criticism, taking each play individually.

Mac Sprowl, president of the Halton County Junior Farmers, was chairman of the evening program. The evening concluded with "The Queen".

### Summer Toboggan For Fire-Fighters

Technicians of the Research Division, Department of Lands and Forests, have devised a summer toboggan aimed at removing the pack from the back of the hard-pressed bush fire-fighter. The little machine, which has proved successful in early trials, is powered by a single-cylinder motor and will carry seven hundred pounds of fire-fighting equipment up hills which would exhaust a pack-carrying ranger.

It is driven by a half-track arrangement and steered through a dual clutch which throws one track out of gear while the other continues turning. The carriers are reversible and will operate for hours on a single tankful of gasoline.

A complete fire-fighting unit, including a power pump, bags of hose nozzles, extra fuel cans and other equipment, can thus be portaged through the bush by a single man.

### BANKERS ATTEND FORUM MEETINGS WHEN FARM CREDIT IS DISCUSSED

Most farmers are proud to claim that farming is a business and that a farmer is his own business manager. Yet some observers say that managing finances is something many farmers do badly and that their approach to farm finances is far from businesslike. Therefore, the question discussed by forum groups in Halton on Monday, February 9, joined by groups throughout the Dominion, was how farmers can apply business principles of credit and finance.

According to the report of a government loaning department, 90 per cent. of the loan borrowed in the past seven years were for farm implements and trucks and only about three per cent. for livestock. "Does this indicate good use of credit facilities by farmers and what are your reasons?"

While some felt this percentage was very low for livestock, it was well used. Others felt it would have been better to use more for livestock. However, due to the scarcity of farm labor, farmers are forced to purchase more machinery to operate efficiently. Farmers were very low in machinery after the war and labor was so scarce it necessitated the borrowing of loans to purchase machinery as farmers have to help of some kind—mechanical or otherwise. There is risk of loss of livestock and most farmers raise their own or equivalent, except the man that feeds

steers—hence the percentage of live stock being low.

When is it good business for the farm family to use credit and when not? North Trafalgar voiced their opinion saying, "It is good business to borrow money to invest in something that will give good returns rather than something for entertainment, e.g. a television set." Do not borrow money to gamble with. A man farming a small acreage should not buy expensive machinery such as combine or forage harvester on borrowed money if his income does not warrant it.

It is good business for a family to use credit to purchase extra land, where he can see prospects of making money on his investment. It is good business to use credit to purchase seed grain for improving the herd. A farmer is justified in borrowing to finish livestock rather than market animals in an unfinished condition.

North Trafalgar had as their guest speaker for this topic on farm credit, Mr. Coulbeck, bank manager, Check line; Esquesing had Fred Chapman; Ligny forum had Mr. Hill, while Limestone forum had Mr. Doble, Milton, and they also contributed \$300 to the Flood Relief in Europe.

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### Indian Necessity Now Popular Sport

Fishing through the ice of Lake Simcoe dates back to the time of the Huron Indians who cut small holes in the frozen surface and, shielded from the cold by buffalo or bearskin robes, speared fish for food.

But times have since changed, and spearing is no longer legal. Buffalo and bears have departed the district long since. Lake Simcoe fishermen today rely on little fish houses for shelter. Mounted on skids they can be moved readily. They have small stoves in one corner for warmth.

Long an important activity for lakeshore residents, ice fishing has been gaining popularity as a sport in recent years. Last winter, some 1,300 fishing shacks were counted over the lake. On week days they are occupied mostly by local fishermen but on week-ends enthusiastic anglers come from near and far to try their luck. They rent space in the tiny cabins and enjoy the sport in relative comfort.

Lake trout, whitefish and lake herring are the species most commonly taken, but perch may be caught in some areas and pike abundant in Cook's Bay at the south end of the lake. Burbot, or ling, are harvested in large numbers.

Biological studies carried out by the Department biologist reveal that Lake Simcoe whitefish are notable for their small size.

In contrast, lake trout grow rapidly in Lake Simcoe and compare favourably in growth to those from other Ontario waters. The better lake trout fishing grounds are not so easily reached as are those for whitefish or herring. Local fishermen, therefore, take more of this species than do their week-end guests. Lake herring are very abundant.

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