

### Chronicles of Ginger Farm

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

Something tells me that certain species of cats, dogs and house plants cannot be raised together—and they are the kind we seem to possess.

For several years I have had a huge fern—or plant—I hardly know which to call it. It has long trailing branches and a sort of multiple bulbous root. This plant filled one entire window in the living room and was so heavy I couldn't even lift it. It had always been hardy and healthy—and then suddenly it wasn't there. I was at a loss to account for the change—until the day I discovered Mitchell-White asleep on top of my precious fern! It was an ideal spot, with the warm sun streaming in through the window. I knew Mitchell had been playing with the trailing fronds but making a bed of the fern was something I hadn't even thought of as possible. Eventually I had to cut off all the fronds and report the fern, splitting it into four white I was at it.

In the other living room window I have an asparagus fern. Mitchell can't sleep on top of it as the pot isn't big enough so he nibbles at the fronds instead. Upstairs in a big south bedroom, used only when we have guests, I have a variety of house plants, which I considered comparatively safe—until last Sunday. Mitchell and Alf were out and brought a young couple with them. June brought her English terrier with her—a nice little dog, quite friendly and well-behaved—even with Honey and Mitch. It was all over the place. Presently I heard it chasing around upstairs but in a few minutes it was down again.

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Next day I was up to water my plants. Such a sight as met my eyes! One cactus was lying out of its pot; another was on the floor, its fancy container broken; two of my reported ferns were also lying among a debris of broken pots and earth. And various shoots were snapped off my geraniums and begonias. Worse than that, some of these plants belonged to friends who had been staying here before Christmas. They had left them in my charge until they were ready to start housekeeping again.

Well, I thought, a dog couldn't possibly have done that much damage. And then suddenly I realized what had happened. Big Black Joe had evidently been sleeping on one of the beds. When the dog ran upstairs, Joe, scared to death by a canine stranger, had made a flying leap for the window. And that was that. I am sure that is what happened because I remember seeing Joe come through the hall when everyone had gone. And it could have been worse. Years ago, when a strange dog came into the house, Mitchell-Grey went right through the living room window. Glass and all.

In my den I have on the window sill one begonia and a flowering hon. Yesterday while we were at breakfast I heard a crash... I found the begonia lying on the floor, its pot broken, and Mitchell-White scampering away. So I have come to the conclusion that Mitchell among plants is like a bull in a china shop. Too bad, because in every other respect he is a well-behaved and intelligent pussy-cat! Which reminds me—I visited a house in town last week where there was a four-year old cat that had never been outside by itself. It had a little harness and was taken outside by some member of the family at various times during the day. This was because all its predecessors had either been killed, stolen, poisoned or run away.

Before leaving the subject of plants and cats... I have two Christmas cacti, both of which bloomed just before Christmas. One has already bloomed again and the other is a mass of buds—and dogs notwithstanding. Has anyone else had a similar experience? Maybe even house plants don't know what to make of this unusual winter.

It is certainly unusual all right. Two days ago the air was just like spring. Last night the temperature took a nosedive and here we are back to winter again. I have just come in from feeding the hens and found the thermometer registering zero. That suits me all right—I'm not ready for spring yet.

Well, this is the day farm folk have been waiting for—the day U.S. embargo against Canadian cattle is to be lifted. And then what? Some say lower beef prices will result—but that remains to be seen. In any case free movement of cattle is greatly to be desired, especially off this farm, if I have my way. Partner is spending far too much time at the barn these days. If it hadn't been for the embargo some of our cattle would have gone out long ago. But who wants to sell on a falling market?

**MINING BOOM**  
East and West in Canada, exciting mine news is being made, reports The Financial Post. In the East—financial deals, new staking and exploration programs follow one another in quick succession as the pot continues to boil in New Brunswick's new base metals mining camp, focal point for the heavy speculative trading which has sent volume on the Toronto Stock Exchange to new daily highs.  
In the West—one of the largest winter diamond drilling programs in Canadian mining history is shaping up in the bleak, winter-grit Beaverlodge uranium camp of northern Saskatchewan.

### Pass Suggestions To County Council

Over sixty ladies and gentlemen of Nassagaweya Township, who are interested in improved road conditions, attended a meeting held in Brookville Hall on Thursday evening, February 26th. E. D. Mahon was unanimously chosen as chairman.

Figures of total equalized assessments of each township in Halton County were reviewed and also amounts spent last year on all Halton County roads and amounts available this year were released.

Reeve Stanley Norrish was unable to attend but councillors John Robertson, Archie Service, John Millan and Thompson attended.

A motion was unanimously supported that a committee of five including Archie Service, Alex Near, Lloyd Crawford, John McDougall and Dr. B. Young should meet with the roads committee of County Council and pass along ideas and views from this meeting. Another meeting will be called later to hear results.

### ODD OR EVEN

Shocked old lady: "And on my way here we passed about 25 people in parked cars."

Young Hostess: "Oh, I'm sure you are mistaken. There must have been an even number."

### Fund Helps, Has Normal Life Again

Louis Eckensweiler is a paper-hanger and painter by trade even though left with a severely deformed right foot by a childhood attack of poliomyelitis. By the time he reached adult life, the deformity was so severe that he actually walked on the outer border of his foot with sole of it turned in toward his other foot. Thick callouses formed on the pressure points and eventually open sores developed that were extremely painful.

At times he had to lay off work to promote healing of these sores, and many times by the time his day's work was done he felt like taking to his knees to get home. Desperation drove him in search of treatment, and the Public Health Nurse told him about the March of Dimes.

He was examined by a specialist at the hospital clinic who told him his foot could be corrected by months of work, at least three of surgery but that it would take six weeks which would be spent in hospital. He felt he could save enough for his family to live on during his lay-off, but he could not handle the hospital cost as well. The March of Dimes provided this for him.

Now for the first time in his adult life he is wearing a normal looking shoe because his foot is straight and he is without pain. He no longer wears a leg brace.

### CHURCHILL Mr., Mrs. A. Kerr Are Hosts to Club

The Churchill Couples' Club met recently at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Kerr. Seven couples were present and three were absent owing to illness. Mr. Bruce Leitch read the minutes of the last meeting and Mrs. A. Kerr had charge of devotion. Several items of business were disposed of and a few games of Lost Heir and Crukinole were played before the lunch committee served lunch.

The Churchill W.A. held their Women's Day of Prayer service on Friday afternoon, February 20th at the home of Mrs. Archie Kerr. A good number of the local ladies turned out and several took part in the service.

Mr. George Graff flew home from Sinaluta, Sask. last week to see his father, who is seriously ill in Guelph General Hospital.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Gibb on the arrival of their baby daughter last week. Rev. C. H. Elliott and Mrs. Elsie Campbell visited Saturday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. Freeman and at the Guelph General Hospital where Mr. Elliott had his picture taken with Mr. J. Graff, both over 90.

Last year 87% of all Red Cross work was done by volunteers who donated their services entirely without pay.

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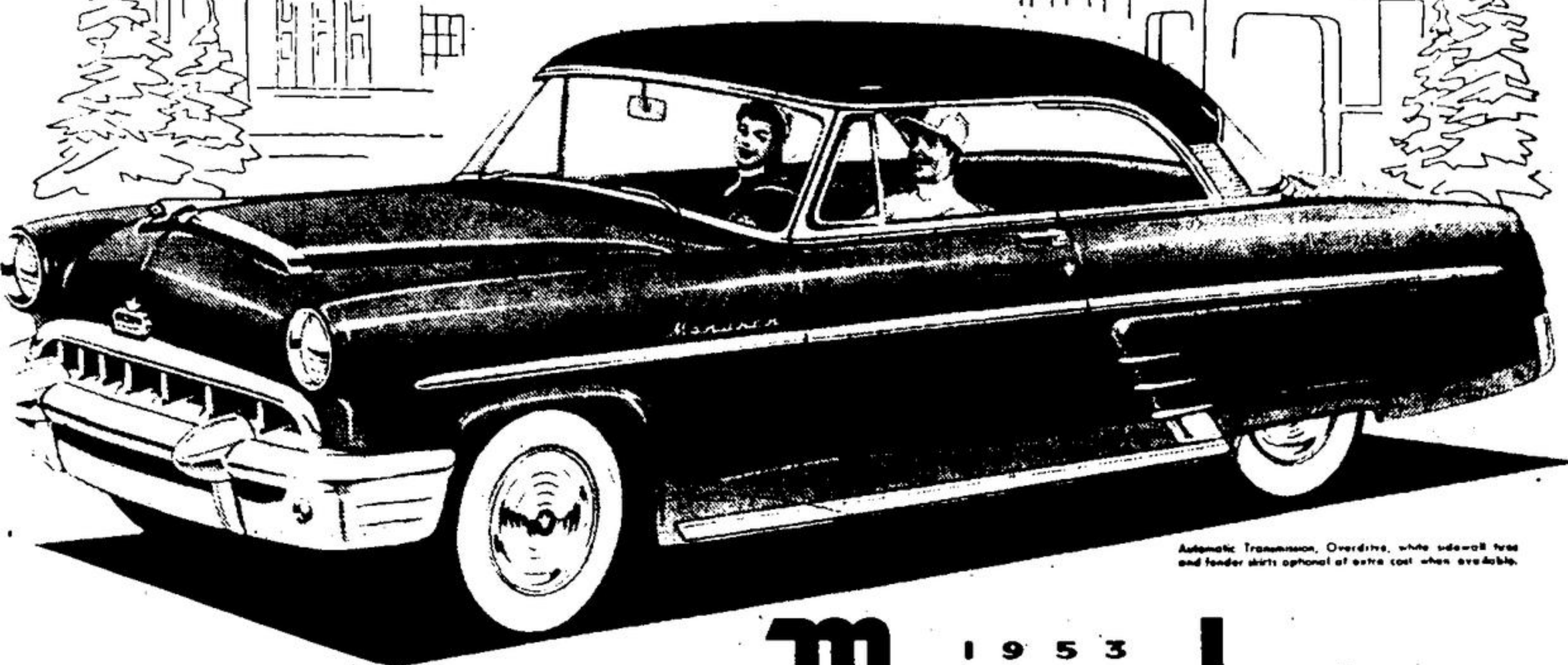
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