



## FARM NEWS

From Halton's Farm Lands

### Soil and Crop Twilight Tour Visits Control Plots, Hears N. J. Thomas

Some 90 Haltonites were in attendance for the annual twilight tour recently sponsored by the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

The first point visited was the Wild Carrot Control Plots laid down by the Association, on the roadside, Lot 13, of the Fourth Line of Trafalgar. Here 11 different plots, each 200 ft. long, inspected under the leadership of Agricultural Representative J. E. Whitlock. While 2-4, D in both Amine and Ester form gives around a 95 per cent. kill of wild carrot, the first year an area is sprayed, Halton experience would appear to indicate that 2-4, D sprays applied on the same areas in succeeding years does not give anything like the same results.

However, we do not want to leave the impression that 2-4, D applications on our township weeds is not doing any good. One has only to compare the roadsides on the "Five sideroad" in Esquewaux—first, the area between the third and fourth concessions, where Hurricane Hazel took the bridge out last fall and consequently this section was not sprayed in 1955—to compare this with the same side-road East of the fourth line, which was sprayed this year—there is quite a difference. Nevertheless, in our opinion, 2-4, D is not doing a good enough job of controlling wild carrot on our township roadsides.

**Look at Private Lands**  
On the other hand, we have looked at several areas of privately owned land sprayed for the first time by custom operators in both 1954 and 1955, and the results are outstanding. It is to get back to the plots laid down on May 24, on the Fourth Line of Trafalgar, opposite Lot 13.

To summarize very briefly, plots sprayed in 1954 with Brushkill (2 lbs. of acid to the acre) practically eliminated wild carrot. This year in order to determine the most economical mixture, plots were laid down using Brushkill at the pound and pound and a half rates—also various rates of application using 2 parts of 2-4, D to 1 part of 2-4, ST. Brushkill, by the way, consists in most cases of 1 part 2-4, D to 1 part 2-4, ST. Cer-

tainly those plots sprayed with a mixture containing 2-4, ST are, definitely better than those sprayed with straight 2-4, D, in either the Amine or Ester form.

In short, the work of the Halton Association, while not conclusive by any means, would suggest that for roadside work or any spot such as a lawn, where difficulty is being encountered in killing wild carrot, the wisdom of using straight Brushkill at the rate of 2 lbs. of acid in 100 gals. of water to the acre.

**Tests with Oats and Barley**

At the A. T. Woodley farm, the replicated tests with eight varieties of oats and a similar number of varieties of barley, were also subjects of keen interest. Here, the discussion was led by Prof. James Laughland of the Department of Field Husbandry. The new varieties, Garry and Rodney, were the centre of particular interest, due to their resistance to rust.

Another test on the A. T. Woodley farm which was the centre of interest was that involving various methods of getting catches of small seeds. Unfortunately, drought conditions of the past few weeks made it impossible to detect any material differences at this time. This project will be watched with interest this coming fall and in 1956.

**N. J. Thomas, Special Speaker**

N. J. Thomas, of the Soils Dept. at the O.A.C., was the special speaker introduced by E. R. Segs-worth, president of the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association. As usual, Mr. Thomas delighted his audience with his practical grasp of the many types of soil, including crop conditions in Ontario; timing; methods of fertilizer application; liquid fertilizers, etc. The thanks of the gathering to Mr. Woodley, Professors Laughland and Thomas, was ably extended by W. E. Breckon of Burlington.

Still another feature of the excellent program was the presentation by Art Bennett in the medium of colored slides, depicting scenes of interest in Halton and surrounding counties.

The evening's program concluded with the members of Halton's 4-H Grain and 4-H Potato Clubs serving a tasty lunch.

#### OBITUARY

### Miss Maud Wheeler Interred at Fairview

In her 76th year, Miss Maud Wheeler passed away on Thursday, August 4. She had made her home with Mr. and Mrs. John Harris at R.R. 4, Acton, for the past five years and previous to that, for seven years in Acton.

Funeral service was held at the Rumley Funeral Home on Saturday, August 6. Rev. D. A. Powell of Grace Anglican church, Milton, was in charge. Pallbearers were Harold Harris, Keith Dowling, Elgie Francescato, George Beimes, Thomas Harris and Harvey Palmer. Interment was in Fairview cemetery.

### Farm Ponds Now For Recreation

The current heat wave is now making some people realize the value of farm ponds for recreational purposes. The growing number of fatalities surrounding these ponds are not among their attractions. This summer has been one of the worst for this type of drowning, probably due to the increased number of farm ponds.

Common sense, of course, is the first ingredient of a safety program, says H. W. Irwin, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Ontario Agricultural College. Farm children do not have the same chance to learn to swim as do city children with their municipal pools and swimming programs. It is, fully, therefore, in any mixed group of children, to permit them to swim unattended in any farm pond. Social pressures now and then prevent a boy from admitting he can't swim, and the result is often tragedy. No person unable to swim should enter a farm pond.

If a farm pond is to be used for swimming, changes in construction methods are called for. Farm ponds are inherently dangerous due to their steep slopes and abrupt drop-offs. There is also some danger from entanglement with underwater growths or materials which were not removed from the reservoir area.

A farm pond should be fenced. A life preserver should be handy or, failing that, some old-rails-should be available to push out to the person in trouble. It is much wiser for the rescuer to use this type of aid unless he has experience in doing rescue work.

The toll in farm ponds is mounting. Many of these dead are young people whose life expectancy was ahead of them. Anything of us can do to reduce this tragic waste is eminently worthwhile.

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### Chronicles of Ginger Farm

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

There has to be a first time for everything and last week we had it. That is to say for five days we had the privilege of taking care of our grandchild without the help of his parents. Daughter was away to camp with her troop of Girl Guides and Art was busy on the transportation end of the affair. So we had Dave. He was asleep in his cot in our room when his parents left and we wondered what the reaction would be next morning. We need not have worried. Dave accepted the situation and took everything in his stride.

It was very hot and humid as if I need to tell you, so we decided that for once in his life Dave could go without his mother. But they did. Part of the time Grandpa was building a stone garden walk. Dave, nearby, amused himself by getting in and out of a small wash-tub into which Partner had poured a pail of water.

The supply didn't last too long as Dave got a couple of tobacco tins and busily baled it out. It didn't matter how wet he got as his clothing was reduced to a pair of training pants. Poor little chap he usually settles down so well at night, but for several nights there wasn't a breath of air and he was naturally restless. So on two occasions I took him out of his cot and we sat on the front steps together to cool off. After that I put him back in his cot and he went right off to sleep.

Strange how children will find their own favorite playthings. My little two-year-old niece in England has lovely toys but her pet plaything was a small jar half filled with mixed buttons. She never tired of tipping them out and picking them up again. Dave's main was to see how many stones he could pick off the driveway. Every time he came into the house, clutching his hand would be grasping a fair size stone and we were beside us if we tried to take it away.

A lot of farm animals have another joy. Two horses, two cows, a pig and a sheep. He sat in his high chair and played with them and at meal-time the animals had to be fed as well as Dave. We made it a rule that the animals must be put back in their box when he went to bed, with the exception of one. He was allowed to take either the pig or the sheep with him, firmly grasped in his wee hand.

Of course our supremacy as caretakers ended when Mummy and Dad appeared on the scene. At that age—not quite two—grandparents just don't count if the parents are around. So for that reason we were glad to have Davey to ourselves and to know that we could manage him without any trouble should an emergency arise. Of course, when a child is in a strange place, constant vigilance is necessary. So when he was busy in the house grandpa took over. We couldn't just put Dave outside and leave him to amuse himself. There was always the chance he might wander off to the road or be busy picking up stones in the lane when a car drove in.

Now we have a new job on our hands—breaking in another dog, actually an eight-month-old puppy, partly German Shepherd breed. Robbie, our Welsh Corgi, is a nice little house dog, but as a watch-dog he doesn't amount to much and we have the idea that a good guard dog on a farm is a necessity these days. Rusty the Second is that all right, but he needs quite a bit of training. So far he has only to bark and people keep their distance. We had a "Rusty" once before so this dog has to be Rusty the Second.

Robbie, of course, is frightfully jealous, but the cats don't mind him at all. In fact, Partner and he witnessed the funniest thing last night he has seen for a long time. Rusty and Robbie were having a wrestling match outside, half playing, half fighting, with a good deal of growling mixed in. Black Cat Joe was sitting on top of the wood pile looking on. All at once Joe leaped over to the dogs, jumped in between them and broke it up. The dogs were so surprised they stopped immediately. Then Referee Joe calmly walked away and went back to the wood pile!

Well, I really think this is the happiest morning since my return from England and only because I am pleasantly cool. In the Old Country I was never warm enough but I can certainly take the cool weather better than the heat, especially when it goes on day after day. It is exhausting to say the

least. Sometimes I think there should be a law against working in temperatures over 90 degrees. Who was it said "Only mad dogs and an Englishman lie out in the mid-day sun" or words to that effect. Here's hoping we don't get another heat wave for a little while. Some jobs are quite impossible in hot weather.

Four-fifths of the Canadian wood pulp output is manufactured in mills that convert it immediately into paper, paperboard, building board and other products. The remainder is sold as pulp.

### H. S. HOLDEN

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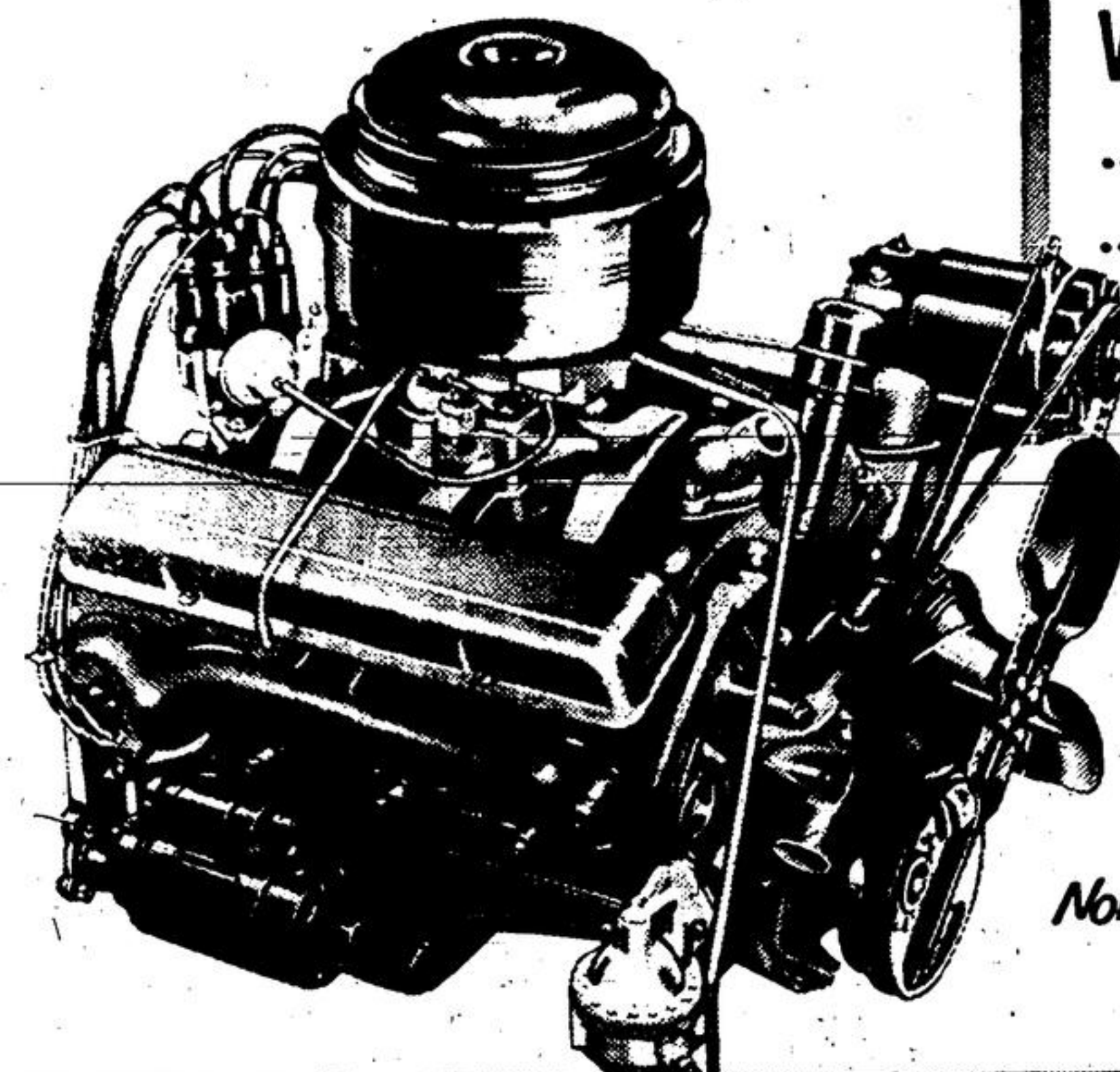
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