

Reports and articles from Halton's Farmlands and Farm Organizations



Chronicles of Ginger Farm

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

"Well, was it a good Christmas at your house? Or were you celebrating away from home? Quite likely. As families grow up, parents and married children of ten take it in turn to hold Christmas. In our family, our young married folk like to start Christmas in their own homes and then come to the old farm house for a noisy Christmas dinner. But I must tell you more about that in a later column. Right now it is time to wish you a very Happy New Year, which I do with all my heart.

I suppose we are all glad to greet that innocent-looking little cherub whom we have come to accept as symbolic of the New Year. Perhaps he is responsible for the festive see us see approach the new year — a feeling that sort of fills us with renewed hope, optimism and all kinds of good intentions.

After all, isn't the New Year like an unopened book, with twelve unwritten chapters? As time passes we ourselves shall help to write those chapters just as we helped to write those of 1955. Chapter and verse are not always written the way we expect or want them to be, because an often fate guides and controls our hand, even as we write. Nevertheless, greeting the New Year is a joyous occasion. Is there anything lovelier than to hear church bells ringing out across the frosty night, welcoming the new year?

"Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring, happy bells across the snow. The year is going, let him go, Ring out the false, ring in the true." When Tennyson wrote those charming words, people used to listen for the church bells to usher in the New Year. But now, alas, too often the bell of the bells is drowned by the noise of horns blowing, whistles shrieking, clappers and other raucous celebrations that seem to be the modern way of greeting the New Year. Customs in other lands sometimes seem very strange to us yet many of them are far more romantic and certainly less noisy than our own. For instance, in Spain on New Year's Eve, Almeria grapes are pulled from their stems and put into bags—twelve grapes to a bag. In restaurants, patrons handed grape-bags and they can also be bought from vendors on the street. At the first stroke of midnight, Spaniards who believe in the old superstition try to swallow all twelve grapes, one at each stroke of the clock. Good luck for the coming year depends on the number of grapes a person can swallow. If two or three are left over, it means that a corresponding number of months will elapse before good fortune begins.

In Russia, New Year's is the day on which gifts and greetings are exchanged. Fir trees are set up in homes and public squares by December 24 but gifts for the children are not placed under the tree until New Year's Day. Christmas, with the Russians, is just another day on the calendar, observed only by the old people who remember happier days or were they? Young people who have grown up since the Revolution have never even heard of Christmas, except perhaps as a legend.

In the USSR there are no Christmas cards but at the end of the year, "Happy New Year" cards issued by the Russian Postal Service and marked "For the New Year." Typical of such cards is one with the picture of a skyscraper apartment house in Moscow against a snowy background and in the foreground the clock-tower of the Spasski (Christy) Gate of the Kremlin. At midnight the hands of the clock and the great star on top of the spire are illuminated.

China has a wonderful New Year's custom. All debts must be paid before the new year dawns, otherwise a man would lose face. For this reason, there is great activity among farmers, merchants and customers to settle every debt before the old year dies. That is one custom that our western civilization might do well to copy. But what would happen to all the cars and television sets bought on the installment plan? There wouldn't be so many around, that's certain.

In Korea, so I've been told, father makes a brightly colored kite in the form of a dragon. To the tail of the kite he ties red slips of paper bearing the age, name and birthday of each of his sons. The kite is then released in the wind. If the paper children are not torn from the kite, then the father is sure his real sons will be safe from disaster for another year.

And in Scotland there is a superstition about "first footing." It is unlucky to have a fair-haired person be the first to cross your threshold on New Year's. So, for a day at least, dark-haired persons are very popular.

Very few people nowadays believe in old-world superstitions.

Fred Nurse is Winner of Grain Corn Contest with 114-Bu. Crop

The awards in connection with the Grain Crop Competition sponsored by the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association were announced at the annual meeting of the Association held in the Milton town hall on Wednesday of this week. Many Halton folk have been busy during the winter time who grew the 14 bushel crop of grain in Halton in 1955. Finally the secret was unveiled—the winner is the past president of the Halton Association in the person of Fred Nurse of Ashgrove.

The second place and a very close second, were Walker Bros., Milton, with a yield of 113.54 bus. to the acre, which won John Richardson's Special of one bushel of DeKalb Seed Corn. The Walker Bros. crop was planted on May 16 in 40-inch rows and was of the Funks G. 11 variety. This particular field was also in corn in 1954. When planted, it received 200 lbs. of 33 per cent nitrogen and 250 lbs. of 4-24-12 per acre. At planting time, another 200 lbs. of 4-12-10 was sown per acre.

Third, Fourth Prizes

The third prize award which took with it a bag of Special Seed Corn, was won by Tom C. Foster, of the Lowville district. Here the yield was 104.4 bus. to the acre and was of the Funks G. 176 variety, planted in 40-inch rows. This field also grew corn in 1954. It received an application of five tons of barnyard manure to the acre. On May 1 the field received 200 lbs. of 33 per cent nitrogen per acre and at planting time on May 20 an additional 250 lbs. of 4-24-12 per acre was applied.

The fourth man with over 100 bushel yield was Harry Nurse of Ashgrove. This crop of the Pioneer 377A variety was planted in 36-inch rows on May 28. The field was plowed this past spring out of sod and received an application of eight tons of barnyard manure per acre plus 200 lbs. of commercial-grade fertilizer. At planting time an additional 250 lbs. of 4-24-12 was applied with the corn planter.

Other award showing yields and variety, were as follows: fifth, Burdge Gundy, Millgrove, 83.1 bus., De Kalb 240; sixth, George Coulson, Lowville, 81.4 bus., DeKalb 56; seventh, Brock Harris, Lowville, 80.8 bus., Pioneer 377A; eighth, Dan Smith and Sons, Kilmbridge, 80.6 bus., Funks G11; ninth, Gordon Hume,

we have become far more prosaic and practical in our outlook. We have gained a lot in knowledge but perhaps we have lost something. Can an idealism which we are not likely to regain. So, in keeping with the times, I wish you all not only a Happy, but a Prosperous New Year.

When I write this column next week, it will be 1956—and the first chapter started in that unwritten book. One book in which we can not turn to the last page to find out how the story ends!

FIRST RAIN MAKER



Back in the nineties a patent was issued for an irrigating device consisting of a balloon, perforated water pipes... and an active farmer to haul the whole contraption along by its guy ropes.

Today, of course, irrigation is a lot easier proposition. Aluminum irrigation tubing, for instance, can be laid, lifted, moved about with the greatest ease. With it one man can water more land than an army of balloon operators. Shows how lightweight, low-cost aluminum (Canada is the world's most efficient producer of the metal) makes a simple job out of a tough one.

ALUMINUM COMPANY OF CANADA, LTD. (ALCAN)

Compare Figures On Corn vs. Oats

When one notes the yields the competitors in the grain corn contest secured an average of 85 bush. of shelled corn to the acre, it makes one wonder if we should be growing as much oats as we do in this county. Let us briefly compare the two crops from the standpoint of total digestive nutrients to the acre. A 48 bus. crop of oats, in contrast, would give 1071 lbs. of total digestible nutrients. From the standpoint of total protein giving, oats in analysis of 12 per cent against 9.6 per cent for corn, we get this picture—183 lbs. of protein per acre for oats and 200 lbs. for corn.

Corn has all the better of the story too, when one looks at the fibre analysis—corn 23 per cent against 10.6 per cent for oats. Back eight or ten years ago, we did a little work on grain corn and at that time we came to the conclusion that while grain corn had a place on our more loamy soils, that it was out on the heavy soils. The basis for this conclusion was, first, those on the heavier soils did not get the yield; secondly, too often the growers did not get the crop picked early enough to enable them to get the stalks plowed under in the fall.

While spring plowing, generally speaking, is OK on our loamy and lighter soils, we are still of the opinion that our heavier soils must be fall plowed if we are to get a satisfactory crop the following year. Since that time, however, a lot has

Rodney Oats Tops Halton Test

One of the projects sponsored by the Halton Crop Improvement Association during 1955 was a replicated variety test with both oats and barley. This was laid down on the farm of A. T. Woodley, near Milton, in co-operation with the Field Husbandry Department at the Ontario Agricultural College.

The test included eight varieties each of both oats and barley. In the Woodley test the Rodney variety of oats was tops with a yield of 64.8 bus. to the acre. In second place came the Craig, an American variety, with 64.1 bus., then Simcoe with 61.4 and Garry with 61.2 bus. 20 similar tests were conducted by the Field Husbandry Department across the province.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

THE Y.M.C.A. CAMERA CLUB INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE CLUB

Thursday, January 5th
8.00 p.m.

at the Y.M.C.A.

Further information available at the Y.M.C.A.
42 Mill St. or Call 268

"Trust and Loan Shares are attracting increasing interest as long-term investments."

Financial Post.

Halton & Peel Trust Company shares at \$11 per share offer an unusual opportunity to invest in a Trust Company which is making very substantial progress. Assets exceed \$1,000,000. June \$499,000, March \$315,000. These shares may now be purchased on a monthly payment plan.

100 shares cost \$1,100.
Cash \$220 and monthly payments of \$44 for 20 months.

Enquire about our 4% Five-year Guaranteed Investment Certificates if you require an investment for Trust or Estate funds.

12 Insurance Companies and 16 societies and municipalities have invested.

Call or write
O. E. MANNING, Manager

HALTON & PEEL TRUST & SAVINGS COMPANY
OAKVILLE, ONTARIO
Phone Victor 4-3216

INSIST ON CUSTOM CLEANING

TREAT YOUR CLOTHES TO INDIVIDUALIZED CLEANING... From the shourest fabrics, to "service-weights", we give your garments the individualized care that's best for each. Try us and see!

PHONE 272 Custom Cleaners MAIN ST. N.

been learned about growing corn. In the first place, we now have earlier, better corn hybrids. Secondly, we have found that corn normally responds to fairly heavy applications of commercial fertilizer.

True, the first prize winner this year did not use as much commercial fertilizer as the majority of the competitors. However, the field in question was, in our opinion, in a high state of fertility. Furthermore, a good alfalfa and bromo sod was turned under along with around eight tons of manure to the acre. However, there are a lot of angles to the question. Is custom equipment available when required, etc.

Certainly we would be one of the last to want to see some of our operators on our heavy soils jump into the growing of grain corn. In our opinion, it is a crop with which one should feel his way. At the same time, we can't help but think that the day will come when we will be growing more grain corn in this county—that it, providing we don't sell it all off for housing and industry.

A Thrifty, Prosperous and HAPPY 1956

- KRAFT VELVEETA CHEESE 8 oz. pkg. 27c
- CHASE AND SANBORN INSTANT COFFEE 2 oz. jar 55c
- FRENCH'S... PREPARED MUSTARD 6 oz. jars 2 for 23c
- SHIRRIFF'S... ALL FLAVORS LUSHUS Reg. Pkgs. 3 for 26c

- AYLMER... CHOICE HALVES OR SLICES 15 oz. tins 2 for 35c
- AYLMER... SWEET PEACHES 16 oz. jar 29c
- AYLMER... FANCY TIPS GHERKINS 12 oz. tin 35c
- WELCH'S ASPARAGUS 32 oz. bl. 39c
- I.G.A. EMBOSSED GRAPE JUICE 20 oz. pkg. 31c
- BETTY CROCKER CAKE MIX 20 oz. pkg. 31c
- DEVILS FOOD 2 for 29c

I.G.A. "TABLE RITE" BRANDED BEEF

Guaranteed Tender!

PRIME RIB ROAST

SHORT CUT—FIRST 5 RIBS

lb. 51c



- Maple Leaf... Fully Cooked PORK SHOULDERS 37c
- GREENSPAN'S... ALL BEEF SLICED SALAMI 8 oz. pkg. 39c

- Swift's Premium... Party Favorite 10 oz. roll BRAUNSCHWEIGER 29c
- LIVER AND BACON LIVER AND CHEESE 63c
- GREENSPAN'S... ALL BEEF SALAMI CHUBS 63c

- REESWEET... PURE CALIFORNIA ORANGE JUICE 48 oz. tin 43c
- FLUFFO SHORTENING 1 lb. pkg. 25c
- NEW INSTANT QUAKER OATS Large Pkg. 35c
- I.G.A. "ROYAL GUEST" COFFEE 1 lb. bag 99c

- Holiday Feature 1. GOLDEN RIPE BANANAS 2 lbs. 25c
- New Crop!... California Seedless SUNKIST NAVEL Size 220's doz. 49c Size 288's doz. 39c
- Selected N. 1... Firm Red Ripe TOMATOES cello pkg. 15c
- California Iceberg... Crisp Solid Heads Jumbo Heads LETTUCE 2 for 35c
- California New Crop... Fresh Green Tops Lg. bchs. CARROTS 2 for 25c

LEDGER'S I.G.A.

FROZEN FOOD FEATURES

- Pictweet... Frozen Fresh GREEN PEAS 12 oz. pkg. 23c
- Pictweet... Frozen Fresh LEMONADE 6 oz. tin 19c