

CANADIAN PLOWMEN ABROAD

By R. BEILHARTZ, Manager
1956
CANADIAN PLOWING TEAM

Russell Beilhartz of Bruce Station, Ont., a past president of the Ontario Plowmen's Association and manager of the Canadian plowing team at the recent fourth annual World Plowing Match at Shillingford, near Oxford, England, has sent home on-the-spot reports of his trip with team members Robert Timbers of Stouffville, Ont., and Edwin Demman of Portage la Prairie, Man. Here is the concluding report.

The red rocket that would open the contest. The plots were all in a row and numbered from one to 25. Demman had number 25 and had to open his own cast-off.

This was two Edwin Demman year sod of ley, as they call it here but it was in better condition for plowing than the stubble land. The top growth was fairly heavy. Bob had drawn a good plot and his opening furrow was excellent. Mickey also had a wonderful start and was showing great skill until he ran into trouble at the finish with the last furrow and sole furrow. On the other hand, Bob carried his good start right through to an excellent finish. But I must confess here I became quite worried, and feared that he wouldn't have enough time to finish. I spoke to the stewards, asking if time could be allowed for the extra strike and they decided to give him an additional ten minutes. I didn't tell Bob and as it happened, he didn't need the extra time. He had turned in the last furrow as the rocket signalling the close of the match soared above the field. I heaved a sigh of relief.

At that point I felt confident that we had a winner in Bob. Judging from the remarks one heard on all sides, that confidence was widely shared. But it would be an hour or more before we knew the results, or at least until after the ceremony of the unveiling of the "peace cairn" by the Duke of Gloucester.

The peace cairn, as I mentioned in my first letter, are made of stones arranged in a semi-pyramid. Their purpose is to mark the sites of World Plowing Matches. One was erected at Cobourg to commemorate the first World Match in 1953 when plowmen from 11 countries were guests in Canada of Imperial Oil. Another was unveiled last year at Upsala, Sweden. The name "peace cairn" is derived from the theme of these matches, "Peace Through the Plow".

Around the top portion of the cairn is a band, or surround, of native stones bearing the names of the competing countries and contributed by them. Surmounting all is a three-foot replica of an 18th century Norfolk plow in the Ken-



A NOTE OF PAGEANTRY was struck during the unveiling of a peace cairn at the fourth annual World Plowing Match at Shillingford, England, by girls in national costume. Russell Beilhartz, of Bruce Station, Ont., Canadian team manager is at extreme right. Best Canadian plowman was Robert Timbers, who came fourth in the contest for the Esso Golden Plow.

sington Museum. It is regarded as the ancestor of the modern plow in use in many parts of the western world. It was also the model for the Esso Golden Plow trophy, symbol of world plowing supremacy, which is awarded to the winner of the world match.

The unveiling ceremony was a memorable event. It created quite a bit of excitement as people here definitely respect royalty. I'll do my best to describe what took place but feel I won't do justice to this great event.

The cairn was located near the scene of today's plowing, and incidentally this land is owned and operated by one of the oldest colleges in Oxford. 13 flag poles, each bearing the flag of a competing country, formed a square in front of the cairn.

Before the arrival of the royal party, the 13 plowing teams took up positions in front of the flag poles. A guard of honor in full dress uniform was drawn up and there were also royal trumpeters in their colorful trappings, an official in robes of office who acted as master of ceremonies, and an archbishop accompanied by his chaplain. Standing by the corners of the cairn were girls in period costumes of the British Isles.

Into this square drove the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, accompanied by a party including J. D. Thomas of Toronto, president of the World Plowing Match. After alighting from the car, J. D. Thomas presented the members of the teams to their Royal Highnesses. Following the presentation, the Duke proceeded to a dais where he delivered a short address. At this point, the costumed girls pulled the cords that unveiled the peace cairn. Then the archbishop offered up a prayer and at its conclusion the band, accompanied by the royal trumpeters, played God Save the Queen. During the playing of the national anthem, plowmen from each of the teams slowly lowered their countries' flags. When the flags came to rest, the ceremony

was over, and so was the fourth annual World Plowing Match. As soon as the royal party drove off, there was a rush to the headquarters to find out the results, but the officials were still busy tallying the scores. When finally it was announced that Hugh Barr of Northern Ireland was again the world champion, there was a cheer. There were also some disappointed people including myself.

Of course, by now you all know the results, but just to refresh your memory, here is how our boys made out. Robert Timbers, fourth place with a total of 152.40, Edwin Demman, tenth with 147.50. Hugh Barr, the winner, received 165.75 points.

Back at the hotel, we cleaned up for the post-match banquet. It was a lovely dinner and the speeches were short and interesting. But when they came to the awarding of the Esso Golden Plow trophy, I felt tired and a little sick and left to go to my hotel. But I suppose

New Officers Named By Alert Auxiliary

The November meeting of the Alert Evening Auxiliary was held at the home of Miss Marjorie Hall. Mrs. G. Musselle was convener of the program. Miss Laura Wiles read the scripture and Mrs. J. Inglis took the prayer. Mrs. G. Musselle and Mrs. J. Davidson took charge of the study.

Mrs. F. Anderson very fittingly dedicated a Memorial to Mrs. Robert O'Hara, a beloved member who passed on a short time ago. The Memorial is to be hung in Knox church.

During the business, the election of officers for the coming year was held. They are as follows: honorary president, Mrs. A. McKenzie; president, Mrs. J. Inglis; first vice-president, Mrs. G. Young; second vice-president, Mrs. G. Musselle; secretary, Mrs. J. Jaque; assistant secretary, Mrs. F. Anderson; treasurer, Miss E. Cole; assistant treasurer, Mrs. C. Teishman.

Glad Tidings secretary, Mrs. K. Dodd; life membership committee, Mrs. J. Davidson, Mrs. F. Anderson; welcome and welfare committee, Mrs. R. Turner, Mrs. Ineson; supply committee, Miss Marjorie Hall, Mrs. G. Musselle; program

committee, Mrs. J. Davidson, Mrs. E. L. Clifton, Mrs. G. Young, Miss Bella-Maye Roszell; press reporter, Mrs. J. Jaque; pianist, Mrs. A. K. Mann; assistant pianist, Mrs. M. McCullough.

The meeting closed with the Mizpah benediction and a social half hour followed.

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TWO ONTARIO MEMBERS of the Canadian plowing team, Russell Beilhartz, Bruce Station (left), and Robert Timbers, Stouffville, were presented to the Duke of Gloucester at Shillingford, England, during the World Plowing Match in October.

Mission Band Sends Crafts to Indians

Secretary of Mission Bands for the Presbyterians, Mrs. Norman McDonald of Cooksville was the guest speaker at the Thanksgiving meeting of the United Church Mission Band. After she was introduced by Miss M. Z. Bennett, she spoke to the youngsters and adults on Thanksgiving. Paul McGeachie thanked her and Suzanne Adams presented her with a gift.

Eight children sang a welcome song to the guests. David Ludka read the Scripture. A pantomime on Thanksgiving was put on by Johnny McGeachie, Ann Elliott, Steven Wolfe, Allan Robinson and Marlene Healy.

Mrs. Mae Symon leads the group, with assistance of Mrs. A. Ironside and Mrs. J. McGeachie. Mrs. Fern Brown played the piano for the meeting.

Crafts were displayed which will be sent to Indian children at Bala, Bala, B.C. The youngsters had decorated plaques and toy clocks, painted plastic horses and made necklaces and scrap books.

P.O. for M.P.'S



If you have written your local Member lately, your letter found its way to the new aluminum mail box recently installed in the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa. With their attractively bevelled and sanded doors, these lock boxes look handsomely at home in the vaulted corridors of the Centre Block.

Imagination, Soggy, at the tonnage of praise and blame that will flow through these boxes en route to M.P.'s and Senators set upon. Mean-while we find it fitting that a metal that has become such a vital part of the nation's economy should grace the nation's legislative halls.

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