

—Staff Photo

SAFETY COURSE NIGHT for Halton's 4-H club members was held Friday at the Milton Agricultural grounds. Assistant agricultural representative D. Jackson and extension specialist Ross Milne presented a course in fire extinguishers and fire safety on the farm, and a representative of the St. John Ambulance Corps gave an artificial respiration demonstration. Above, Mr. Jackson puts out a straw fire with a water extinguisher.

Farm News Page

Halton 4-H Club Members Witness Fire Extinguisher Demonstration

Halton's nine 4-H Agricultural Clubs held a joint meeting at the Milton Fair Grounds on Friday evening, June 26. The meeting was held in the form of a Safety Rally, and each club member was responsible for his or her parents' attendance at the meeting.

The meeting commenced with the chairman of the Halton 4-H Council, Roy Coulter, welcoming the members and guests. The program was under the direction of Ross Milne, agricultural engineering fieldman, and D. E. Jackson, assistant agricultural representative.

Dramatic Demonstration
The meeting got underway with a dramatic demonstration on fire hazards and the use of various types of fire extinguishers suitable for farm use.

HALTON COUNTY WEED CONTROL NEWS

V. E. McARTHUR, COUNTY WEED INSPECTOR

IDLE LAND GROWS WEEDS
As a result of Halton County's location in the centre of the "Golden Horseshoe" of Ontario, we find the number of active farmers is decreasing yearly. Already there are thousands of acres of idle land, the greater part being in south Halton.

When an extreme case, it is, however, somewhat typical of the change that is taking place in this area. We are soliciting the co-operation of the owners of idle land and the response is very gratifying.

Whenever possible, the owner is given the names of farmers interested in renting the properties or sometimes a hay buyer who will cut the crop for hay if it isn't too weedy. We recommend these practices to owners of idle land and last year there were numerous instances where they saved themselves the cost of cutting by the municipality.

Only Nature Works
The residents, as well as visitors travelling in this county, cannot help but notice field after field where nature is at work and weeds and thorn trees are taking possession. Even small children living near such properties sometimes have their own theories as to what is happening. I was amused by one such explanation recently given by a small boy who thought the farmers were selling their farms for surveys, because they were so badly overrun with weeds that they could no longer produce crops!

Of course that is not the true picture. The large percentage of idle land in this county can be rightly described as speculative land.

Worse Than First

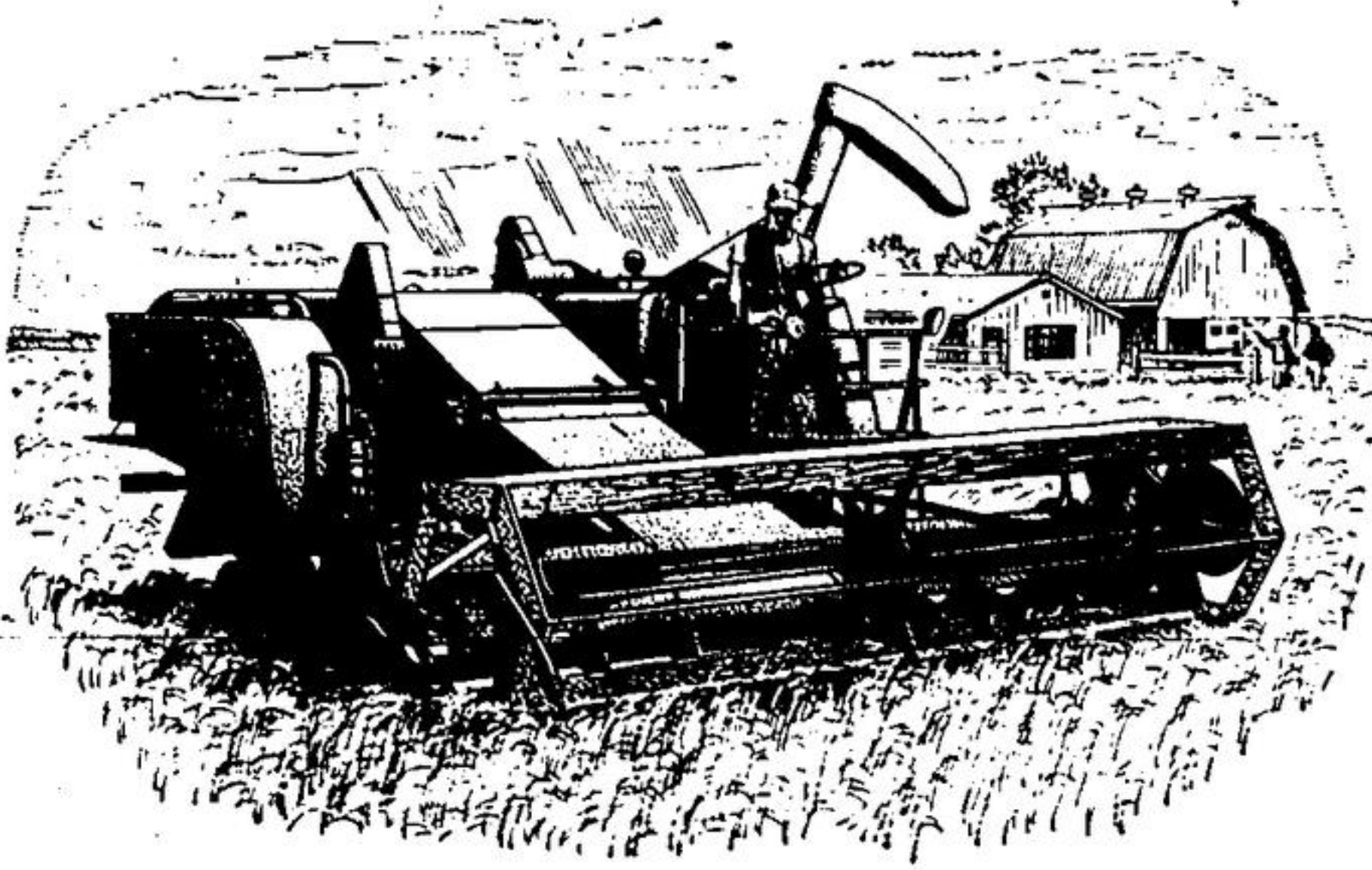
To illustrate what is happening, let me relate a true story as told to me by one of our pioneer farmers, now retired. He said, "You know, my wife and I struggled along all our lives and tried to keep the weeds out of our farm, but my neighbor was a shiftless sort of fellow and his place was always dirty."

"Finally, it came up for sale, so we bought the 100 acres for \$7,000. We began cleaning it up and after a few years of hard work, the property was in good shape and we grew some very fine crops. However, we were not getting any younger, the hired help problem licked us, so we finally sold it for \$9,000."

"What do you think happened?"
Well, the new owner was worse than the first one. He didn't work the place at all! He didn't even live there so it just went back to weeds and we had to watch all our hard work being wasted. But that isn't all. On top of all this, he sold the place last year for \$100,000, and kept 10 acres."

Sollicit Co-operation

While this example may be ra-



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Extension Specialist Reports On Cement Work Construction

By W. Ross Milne

Doing some building remodeling work between haying and harvest?

Judging by the inquiries at the office the past two or three weeks, it is evident quite a few farmers are contemplating doing some building remodeling work as soon as they are through haying. With haying fairly early this year, there should be a few days for doing some of this work.

Most remodeling or new building work involves some cement work. Perhaps if you are doing some cement work, a few comments on making quality concrete might be helpful. It is just as easy to make concrete of good quality which gives excellent service as to make concrete of poor quality which often gives disappointing results.

Four Ingredients

To make good concrete you, of course, need the four necessary ingredients, water, cement, fine aggregate and coarse aggregate.

Cement Cement lumps that cannot be easily pulverized when struck lightly with a shovel should not be used. It should be a "free flowing powder when used. This means that it is necessary to store cement in a dry place.

Water Water that is used in concrete work should be clean enough to drink.

Course and Fine Aggregates It is necessary that both fine and coarse aggregates be used since the fine particles fill in the voids or spaces between the larger particles. Gravel should range in size from one-quarter inch up to about one and a half inch for most work. Both have one thing in common; they must be clean.

Paste Like Action

Concrete is held together by the paste like action of the cement and water on the surfaces of the aggregate. Silt, clay and loam are objectionable in sand and gravel to be used in concrete as they coat the particles and prevent the cement paste from bonding to them, resulting in weak, porous concrete. If you are wondering about your

gravel, here is a simple test you can run

1. Put two inches of a representative sample of sand or gravel in a pint fruit jar.

2. Add water until the jar is almost full. Cover, shake vigorously and set the jar aside until the water over the material clears.

3. If more than one-eighth inch (inch of silt) has settled out on top of the sample, the gravel is too dirty to use unless it is washed.

The most important thing to remember when mixing concrete is that you obtain your strength by the ratio of the water to the cement, not the cement to the gravel. In other words, to get strong concrete, you should vary the amount of gravel to get the thickness you want, rather than the amount of water.

Satisfactory Mix

For most jobs such as floors, barnyards, silos etc., a 1:2:3:4 mix is satisfactory. That is, 1 cubic foot of cement (1 bag) to 2 cubic feet of sand to 3 cubic feet of gravel to 4 gallons of water. The water sometimes has to be varied a little depending on how wet the sand is.

A good mix is not sloppy or too stiff but about the consistency of porridge.

For best results, materials should be added to the mixed in this order: part of the measured amount of water, one-third of the stone, then all of the cement, then all the sand and the remainder of the water and the remaining stone. The material should be mixed for two minutes.

Curing Important

Curing is very important. The chemical reaction between the cement and water makes the cement harden so moisture is necessary as long as the concrete is hardening, which takes seven days before it is completely cured.

If concrete is kept damp for seven days after putting, it will be half again as strong as concrete that was allowed to dry out. As soon as concrete is dry enough, so that it will not mark, it should be covered with straw. The straw should be kept wet for the seven days. It pays.

Good concrete is easy to make. People read the Free Press to buy and buy the Free Press to read.



Two-hundred copies of Bibles printed in Armenian Ararat were sent in November from the headquarters of the British and Foreign Bible Society to a destination in Soviet Armenia.

This is the first shipment in many years and the sending of this bulk package is part of a

Bible Society program which involves the sending out of six tons of scriptures every working day from the Bible House in London.

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Household Hint
by Anne Allan

Before freezing, most vegetables should be scalded or "blanched" to preserve flavour, colour and food value.



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