

Earth Means Life

By WES FOUNTAIN

The following is the first of a series of articles written by Wes Fountain, Acton, dealing with the wonderful world of nature. Mr. Fountain is a member of the Audubon Society of Canada and belongs to the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. He is well known in the Acton area and it is hoped his articles will be of interest to readers and perhaps further the cause of conservation. Anyone interested would be well advised to clip these weekly articles for future reference.

EARTH MEANS LIFE

By W. Fountain

Although a handful of earth appears very ordinary, under itself a magnifying glass reveals the eternal struggle for survival takes place day by day. All life either directly or indirectly depends on soil.

A handful of earth is the home of a large variety of living organisms. Its members range in size from worms measuring inches in length to bacteria barely seen under the microscope. It might be said that the soil represents a laboratory consisting of particles from erosion and the remains of what was once living plants and animals.

Dead plants make up the main source of organic matter which contribute to the total composition and substance of soil. Animals, too, are a help in manufacturing organic matter. They do this by digesting plants, breaking down their more complex materials and in their own remains add to the composition of the soil.

Earthworms Useful

Perhaps the most useful animal that is visible is the common earthworm. It has been estimated that the amount of soil that passes through the bodies of worms in one acre of ground exceeds 15 tons yearly. While this passage is taking place, not only organic matter but also materials in the soil are mixed by juices of the earthworm. The castings of this material contain nitrogen, calcium, magnesium and phosphorus. The holes which are made by these worms provide drainage as well as aeration to the soil.

Earthworms are animals and are capable of feeling pain. The construction of these "worms" is a miracle in itself. Inside a larger tube lies a small one usually filled with earth. The space between these two tubes is actually the animal's body. This body has thin walls and is divided into many compartments containing fluids and organs.

As it moves through and across the soil, the worm produces a reaction that holds on and pulls only one part of the body at a time. The muscles of the earthworm are located in two zones and form two layers. The first layer travels in circles on the outside of the body, while the other runs lengthwise of the body. The earthworm not only is useful to the soil but it also provides food for many other animals.

In every clump of earth can

be found a multitude of insects. Not all of the insects are beneficial. The Japanese beetle and the wireworm are just two of the many insects which attack and destroy grasses, vegetables and flowers.

Ants are by far the most common group of insects. More than 5,000 kinds are known. In exerting humus clay in the form of soil crumbs, these insects are effective in soil improvement. Termites are useful in the decomposition of dead wood. Their inability to distinguish dead wood from building material makes the termite an undesirable animal.

Ground beetles are the best adapted for hunting and catching prey. These have combined speed, strength and grasping power as well as protective armor and excellent eyesight. They are among the beneficial insects.

Arthropods

Among the joint-legged animals, or arthropods, are the millipedes, which have about 100 pairs of legs. The legs are attached to the middle line of the underside of the long worm-like body. A wave-like motion travels through these rows of legs to give movement to the animal.

Centipedes, another type of arthropod, have about two dozen pairs of legs. These are attached to the side of the body segments and therefore do not raise the body above the ground. The outspread leg, much longer than those of the millipedes, works as a lever, bringing about greater speed and movement. As well as being quick in hunting, the centipedes have poisonous claws that are used to paralyze their victims.

Sometimes clinging to pieces of rotten wood as well as under fallen leaves are the sowbugs, another type of arthropod. They feed on undecomposed plant tissue. To protect themselves from danger, some sowbugs roll up into balls. Sowbugs belong to the class, Crustacea, and are related to lobsters and crabs.

Most crustaceans live their entire lives in water. However, the sowbug has developed a way of preserving its aquatic environment. Around its gills are the eyes or present accumulation of soil moisture which it uses to replenish its water supply.

(To Be Continued)

Choose Sam Finnie Sr. President To Head Soil, Crop Association

At the annual meeting of the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association held on January 6 in Union Hall, Milton, Sam Finnie Sr. was elected president for 1961.

The day's session concluded with a panel discussion on "Profitable Crop Production in Halton." A new approach was used in the panel discussion in the form of a challenge panel. This involved two panels—a question panel composed of 10 of Halton's farmers, and an answer panel of five crop specialists.

Those on the panel included Johnston Neelds, Bob Alexander, J. H. Taylor, James Muckay, Charles Greig, Fred Nurse, Brock Harris, Norman Bird, Sam Finnie and Pete McCarthy.

The answer panel included Herb Watson, Ontario Pasture Competition winner, 1960; T. H. Lane, Soils Department, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph; Howard Henry, Field Crops Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture; Ross Milne, engineering specialist, Extension Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture; and Earle Munro, Fruit and Vegetable Extension Specialist, Extension Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture, Milton.

Considerable discussion in the panel centered around pasture management, possibly specialized crops, soil management, drainage and irrigation.

Directors elected to the association are as follows: president, Sam Finnie Sr., Campbellville R.

R. 2; vice-president, Fred Bell, Burlington R. R. 1; secretary, J. A. Francis, Milton. Directors—Trifalgar: Hugh Beatty, Milton R. R. 1; Johnston Neelds, Hornby R. R. 4; Claude Ford, Milton R. R. 4; Cyril Marshall, Milton R. R. 4. Esquimaux: R. C. Alexander, Georgetown R. R. 2; James MacKag, Georgetown R. R. 3; Fred Nurse, Georgetown R. R. 2; Sam Harris, Milton R. R. 5. Burlington: Fred Bell, Burlington R. R. 1; Brock Harris, Milton R. R. 6; Craig Reid, Milton R. R. 6. Nassagaweya: Ed Scott, Huron, Campbellville R. R. 2; A. R. Service, Milton R. R. 3; Sam Finnie Sr., Campbellville R. R. 2. Acton: Calvin Aitken, Acton R. R. 3.



SEVEN CONTESTANTS in the public speaking contest staged during the Home and School Association meeting Thursday, January 19, each received a pen from the association for their interest. A large crowd of parents and pupils heard the speeches and congratulated Anne Bennett, winner, and runner-up Mary Grisnow, who will represent Acton during the insular finale in Milton. Pictured, left to right, are Kathy McKenzie, Jane Cooper, Linda Braida, John McGeachie, Mary Grisnow, Anne Bennett and Margaret Mackenzie.

Elect G. Wallace Warden For Wellington County

A former Acton-Fair Board president and member of Erin Township council for the past 13 years, serving the last two as Reeve, George Wallace, was elected Warden of Wellington County Tuesday, January 17, when Wellington County council met in Guelph.

His election to office came on the first ballot and he defeated Reeve Frank Johnston of neighboring Erin on a 16-13 vote.

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1929 when he rented a farm in Eramosa Township, which he operated for three years. Following this he was engaged in the construction business in Hamilton until 1940 when he moved to Erin township.

Early Interest He showed a keen interest in municipal affairs and in 1948 was elected for the first time to Township council. He has continued to serve on council and in this year began his 14th year on council. This will be his third term as Reeve.

His wife the former Emily Young, formerly of Acton, holds the enviable record of having the longest teaching term of anyone at the former Dublin school. The couple have one son, Murray, a member of Knox Presbyterian church, Acton. He is also a member of Walker Lodge A.F. & A.M., Acton.

Panel Discussion Highlights Holstein Breeders' Meeting

William Toyell of Palermo, past president of the Halton Holstein Breeders' Club, was moderator of a panel on breeding halsteads at the annual meeting of the Halton Holstein Club. The subject of the panel was "Artificial Breeding versus the Farm Herd Sire."

Members of the panel included Roy Snyder, manager of the Waterloo Cattle Breeding Association; D. C. Reeds, manager of the Central Ontario Cattle Breeding Association; Bob Row and D. Dutton, noted Holstein breeders.

Those addressing the meeting were John Powell, head of extension, Holstein Cattle Association; Bob Row and D. Dutton, noted Holstein breeders.

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Halton Jersey Club Elects New Officers

Highlights of a European tour were presented by J. E. White-Jack at the Halton Jersey Club annual meeting. The meeting was held in St. Stephen's Anglican church, Hornby, on Tuesday, January 10.

Those elected to the Halton Jersey Club for 1961 were: president, Don Matthews, Acton R. R. 2; first vice-president, Bruce Nixon, Norval R. R. 1; second vice-president, Eccles McClure, Georgetown R. R. 4; secretary, J. A. Francis, Milton. Directors—Esquimaux: Mac Alexander, Norval R. R. 1; Don Mathews, Acton R. R. 2; Ken Ella, Hornby R. R. 1; Bruce Nixon, Norval R. R. 1; Eccles McClure, Georgetown R. R. 4. Nassagaweya: Duncan Moffat, Rockwood R. R. 2; Georgie Hewer, Moffat R. R. 1. Trifalgar: Wm. H. Devlin, Milton R. R. 4; Wm. Featherstone, Oakville R. R. 1; M. C. Beatty, Milton R. R. 1; M. C. Beatty, Milton R. R. 1; Ernest Davies, Guelph R. R. 4.

Cripple Types Letter With-Knitting Needle

The United Church Women's Missionary Society met at the home of Mrs. M. Mainprize, January 10 with 17 present. The president, Mrs. H. R. Force, opened the meeting with a hymn, and prayer, read the report of the Society at home and overseas.

The minutes were given, with Mrs. Hart reading the secretary's report and Mrs. J. Lambert read the treasurer's report. The allocation for the year had been met. Mrs. Warner, literature secretary, gave the number of books sold during the year.

Mrs. Ralston read an inspiring letter from a cripple in W.M.S. hospital in La Monte, Alberta, which she typed using a knitting needle in her mouth to type the letter.

The W.M.S. sent blankets to flood victims in Pakistan. Mrs. Force thanked the hostess, Mrs. Lidke, for the devotional period opening with hymn 571. The Bible reading was taken from Isaiah. She read a poem called Year of our Lord, and prayer. Mrs. Force took the study book on New Ways of Communication. The meeting closed with the Mizpah benediction. The executive served tea.

Milton, Acton School Teachers See Physical Education Method

Teachers from five Milton schools and two public schools in Acton attended a special in-service meeting Wednesday, January 18 in the Robert Little public school in Acton, and viewed a demonstration on physical education, staged by Doug Reid, supervisor of physical education for South Peel.

Mr. Reid brought four grade six pupils with him to show what physical training could accomplish and then used several Acton pupils to demonstrate advancement with new pupils.

The demonstration and discussion proved most enlightening to everyone present and several ideas were gained by those in attendance.

Mr. Reid showed the basic elements in teaching physical education and told his interested audience he supervises 32 schools and only six of these have a gymnasium. His method of teaching is done right in the classroom and this was demonstrated as well.

Arrangements for the display were made by inspector McNeill.

THIS SUNDAY'S Church Calendar

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR ANGLICAN
Rector: The Rev. H. B. Stokreef, L.T., S.T.B.
183 Jeffrey St., phone 365

Septuagesima Sunday
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29th, 1961
8:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist
9:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist and Church School
11:00 a.m.—Liturgy

MID-WEEK CELEBRATION
Thursday, 2 February, 1961, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple and the Visitation of Saint Mary, the Virgin
10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist
All Are Welcome

ACTON PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE
33 Church Hill Road
P.A.O.C.
Rev. Kenneth J. Reid, Pastor
75 Cook St., phone 640-W

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29th, 1961
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Worship
7:00 p.m.—Evangelistic
Tuesday, 3 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study
Thursday, 8 p.m.—Christ Ambassadors
You Are Always Welcome

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Rev. J. Nutma, B.A., B.D., Minister
301 Queen St., Box 44, Phone 688

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29th, 1961
10:00 a.m.—English
11:00 a.m.—Dutch
The Church of the Back to God Hour

BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON
Pastor: James M. Rudd
39 Nelson Court, Phone 206

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29th, 1961
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship
"Paul's First Prayer for the Saints"

7:00 p.m.—Evening Worship
Led by Baptist High Fellowship
Miss Evelyn Wilson, speaker

5:30 p.m.—Baptist High Fellowship
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study—The Book of Acts
Friday, 6:30 p.m.—Explores—All Are Welcome

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
Rev. Andrew H. McKenney, B.A., B.D., Minister
Mr. E. A. Hansen, B.A., Organist and Choir Master

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29th, 1961
9:45 a.m.—Church School
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship
Theme: The Parable of the Sower
Junior congregation (ages 3-7) meets during sermon. Preliminary children cared for at Manse

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA Acton, Ontario
Rev. Dwight Engel, B.A., Minister
Mr. George Elliott, Organist and Choir Master

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29th, 1961
9:30 a.m.—Early Service
9:30 a.m.—Senior Sunday School, grade 4 and up.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship
11:00 a.m.—Junior Sunday School up to grade 3 with nursery.

Y's Men Tell Own Club Service Main Purpose

The first regular meeting of the Y's Men for 1961 convened on time January 12 at the Y. President Earl Masales wished the members a good New Year, then turned the meeting over to Finance Master Paul Lawson—a prosecutor with a penchant for persecution.

The program was set up by Y's Man Pat McKenzie and, assisted by C. Rignvaldson, Doug Copeland, Elmer Smith and Bill Wilson, he outlined the work of the members of this club. Beginning with service, the primary purpose, the separate speaker's deal with membership, finances, etc.

The regular business of the meeting dealt with the coming Father and Son banquet as well as a review of the pre-Christmas projects.

An executive meeting followed the adjournment of the main meeting and again several mem-

bers drew up chairs for a rubber of bridge.

WHY THE CHANGE?
A husband, complaining about the meals at home finally got under his wife's skin.

"What's the matter with you?" she demanded. "Monday you liked beans, Tuesday you liked beans, Wednesday you liked beans, Thursday you liked beans. Now all of a sudden on Friday you don't like beans."

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WITH A FARM IMPROVEMENT LOAN
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WITH A SMALL BUSINESS LOAN
Enquire about Government-backed loans for improvements to small business establishments through the chartered banks up to \$25,000 and up to ten years to repay.

Why Wait for Spring?

FOR ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE, CALL YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT OFFICE
INSURED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER OF LABOUR, CANADA