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CANADIAN PLOWMEN ABROAD

by ALEX MCKINNEY Jr., Director ONTARIO PLOWMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Editor's Note:

This is the last of a series of weekly stories which Alex McKinney Jr., a director of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, is writing about the visit of Canada's champion plowmen to the British Isles, West Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands.

Brampton: There's an end to all things but it seems that the best things are over soonest. That's probably why it feels like only yesterday, although in reality it was seven weeks ago, that I started this series of letters by saying goodbye to Canada. Now, on behalf of the Canadian champion plowmen and myself, I want to say hello everybody for we are back home.

We flew back to Canada from Prestwick, Scotland. It was a smooth trip and a fast one for we had a tail wind all the way. We were surprised when we put down at Dorval airport, to learn we were two hours ahead of schedule. That gave us time to telephone our homes so that when we landed at Malton a few hours later our families were on hand to give us a real welcome.

This business of globe-trotting can certainly be thrilling but coming home is just as thrilling. That poem by Walter Scott that we had to memorize at school describes our feelings when we landed better

than we can express them.

Breathes there the man, with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land!
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burn'd
As home his footsteps he hath turn'd,
From wandering on a foreign strand?

But this letter is chiefly about our stay in Scotland. As you will remember, my last letter was from Ulster where we attended the International plowing match at Mullusk, near Belfast. I'd just like to say in passing that Jim Eccles' effort there was really outstanding. Taking eighth place in a field of 38 champion plowmen from the United Kingdom was really an achievement especially as he had only one day's practice on the high cut plow. There were some there who said he should have rated higher but, be that as it may, the fact is that Jim is the first Canadian plowman to do so well. In a special class for overseas plowmen Jim also took first and Ron Marquis was second against very stiff European competition. The boys received silver cups and I feel they were a credit to all Canadian plowmen.

Also in passing I'd like to point out that when I speak of "we" in these letters I mean the three of us. There is my next door neighbour Jim Eccles of Brampton and Ron Marquis of Sunderland, the Canadian champion plowmen. As winners of the Esso Trans-Atlantic horse and tractor plowing classes at last year's International Plowing Match held near Brantford these boys were awarded trips to the United Kingdom with Imperial Oil Ltd. paying the expenses. As a director of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, sponsor of the International Plowing Match, I was appointed to accompany the boys as coach-manager. I also act as a sort of reporter-historian.

In Scotland we were treated royally and really got around. While there we saw some of the finest livestock farms of all we have seen. We also saw Winston Churchill, attended the world-famous

purebred shorthorn sales at Perth, visited a number of outstanding farms and even attended a football match at Glasgow. Our guides in the land of the heather were Allen Campbell of the Department of Agriculture, Scotland, and Ken McNeil of Anglo American Oil Co. They certainly did a good job of looking after their charges.

It's hard to know where to start in describing our experiences but as we have always wanted to attend the Perth sales I'll start there.

The Perth sales were held in a large building specially fitted up for the occasion. It was a two-day affair, with the first day for show and the second day for sales. The quality of cattle offered was very high but as far as exhibiting the cattle, I think maybe we do the job better here in Canada.

There were some outstanding bulls up for sale and the bidding was brisk. Somehow we got the impression that the British breeders liked to say that a bull cost them so many guineas and for that reason they seemed willing to carry their bids higher than Canadian bidders would go.

The top price paid at this year's sales was 6000 guineas, or about \$21,000. This was for a white bull named Lawton Nelson, the major champion and grand reserve champion. It was consigned by Major P. H. Henderson and was bought by Argentine interests. Fourteen animals from the Calrossie Farms owned by Capt. John MacGillivray sold for a total of 32,000 guineas.

Just about everybody who is interested in purebred shorthorns attends the Perth sales but we were surprised to learn that the English actress Greer Garson had been there although we didn't see her. We did, however, see the foundation herd Miss Garson bought through an agent. It was made up of five females and two bulls. They were all white and were bought for between 150 and 250 guineas apiece. We understood they were for a cattle ranch Miss Garson is starting in New Mexico.

We also heard some of the fastest bidding we've ever heard: In one period they auctioned off 90 head of cattle in 110 minutes which is certainly a lot faster than we do in our country. All in all it was easy to understand why the Perth sales have over many years consistently secured the highest prices for shorthorn bulls in the English-speaking world.

The Perth sale also served to remind me that it's a small world. For it was there that I ran into my next door neighbour Hector Astengo of Rosaf Farms, Brampton. I hadn't seen him since about the time of the Royal Winter Fair so we had a lot to chat about. Mr.

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Astengo was buying some purebreds for his ranch in South America.

It was in Edinburgh that we saw Winston Churchill. He was making a political speech there that night but because of other engagements we did not go to hear him. He was staying at the same hotel as we were and when we got back that night he came in a few minutes after. We got a real good close-up look at him. He is just as impressive in the flesh as he is in his pictures. Several people were after him for autographs but it wasn't us because we didn't have autograph books with us.

The day we attended the football match was a miserable day. It was snowing. The match was between Glasgow Rangers and Couperhead and it was played in more than an inch of snow. In spite of the dirty weather there was a good crowd on hand to see the Rangers win eight to nothing. Compared with our game over there and body checking is equalized.

Before we left we visited the farm of William Young, Sherriton Mains not far from Prestwick. Mr. Young is a cousin of Clark Young of the Ontario Plowmen's Association whose letters you probably read a few years ago. William is a former

president of the Scottish Farm Union and has an outstanding flock of Border-Leccisters and a fine herd of Ayrshires on his 400-acre farm. Our visit to the Young farm was another of the many highlights of our trip.

I realize that in these letters I haven't told you a quarter of the interesting places visited nor the interesting people we met. It would take many more letters and it would also take considerable time to sort out our memories. As time goes on we may have other opportunities to tell you of the things that haven't been covered in these letters. But before I bring my final letter to a close there are two matters I'd like to mention.

The first concerns the maple trees we planted or left to be planted overseas as a symbol of Canadian friendship. The Danish government has reciprocated. Since we returned we have received a shipment of beeches. The beech is the national tree of Denmark. They have asked that the trees be planted on the grounds of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. As you may remember from my last letter I planted maple trees at the veterinary college at Copenhagen. I think this reciprocity is a real friendly gesture on the part of the Danish government and I hope we can make a ceremony of planting the beeches. I also hope that as many as can make it will attend the ceremony.

The other important matter is our thanks to the Ontario Plowmen's Association and Imperial Oil Ltd. for making the trip possible. We would also like to express our appreciation to the many people in private industries, in the government services and the Esso companies overseas for all they did to make our trip so memorable. And we would like to thank you, the readers of these letters for the time you have given in following us in our travels. We hope you found them interesting. Goodbye for now.

WALLET WITH \$25 RETURNED TO OWNER

Through the honesty of a Georgetown woman, Mrs. William Emmerson, the owner of a lost wallet containing \$25 in cash had his property returned soon after it was lost on Saturday morning. Mrs. Emmerson found the wallet on Main Street while she was shopping and immediately brought it to the Herald office. It contained identification papers of James L. Longstreet, R. R. 3, Georgetown. Not being able to locate Mr. Longstreet by telephone the police office was called on the chance that he had enquired there. By coincidence, he had just reported the loss and Police Constable Vic Smith was just about to telephone this office.

Married Couples Club Planned at Glen Church

Eight young married couples, members of the Glen United Church, attended a social evening on March 1st at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Win Wheeler. Rev. Alex Cowan was chairman for the meeting and the group discussed the formation of a "Married Couples Club" similar to those which have been established in other United Churches. Mr. Cowan showed moving pictures on "How to bring up a family." A game "How well do you know your husband?" proved interesting. Mrs. John Wagstaffe assisted the hostess in serving lunch.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Kennedy and daughter Cheryl of Lansing were week-end visitors with Mr. and Mrs. George Harrington and attended a family gathering in honour of Mr. Harrington.

Around the Home



TOM GARD'S NOTE BOOK

My small daughter brought to light the origin of the weathervane when, for her bedtime story, she handed me her book containing the tale of the wandering chick. I enjoyed it as much as she.

March has arrived with its usual blustery winds. I have been noticing the attractive weathervanes as I travelled across Southern Ontario. Not only are they of use to the amateur weatherman, but they add a touch of beauty when carefully chosen to suit the location. I was so favourably impressed with three of the designs, I am passing them along to you—

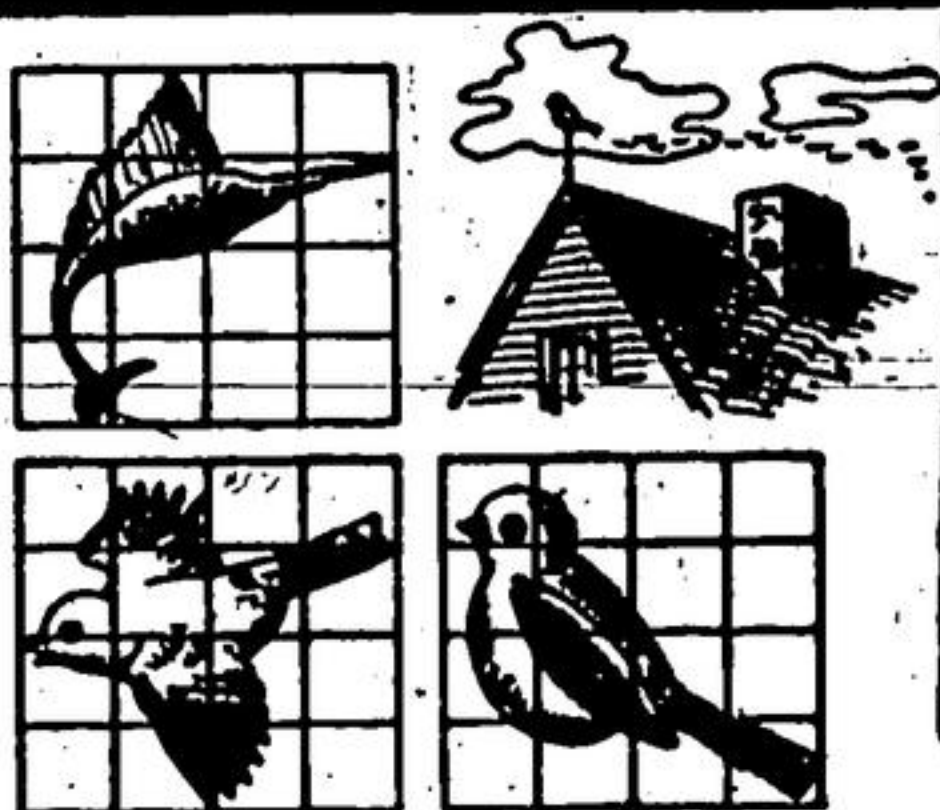
Bricks and Books

I have been searching some time now for a bookshelf that can be placed under a window as my books are overflowing their present space. If I had only thought to talk with the people next door, my search would have been shorter. They built one of bricks and inch lumber that is cheap, easy to set up and very attractive. You can select the bricks to blend with your color scheme and add pieces of thin building board between them to give the appearance of a cement pier.

Wonder if anyone gets the first twinge of summer cottage fever this early in the season? I'm just in the midst of making a dressing table for the cottage from two orange crates, patterned after one I saw in a magazine the other day. It promises to fit my needs exactly, but would be equally adaptable in an attic or bedroom.

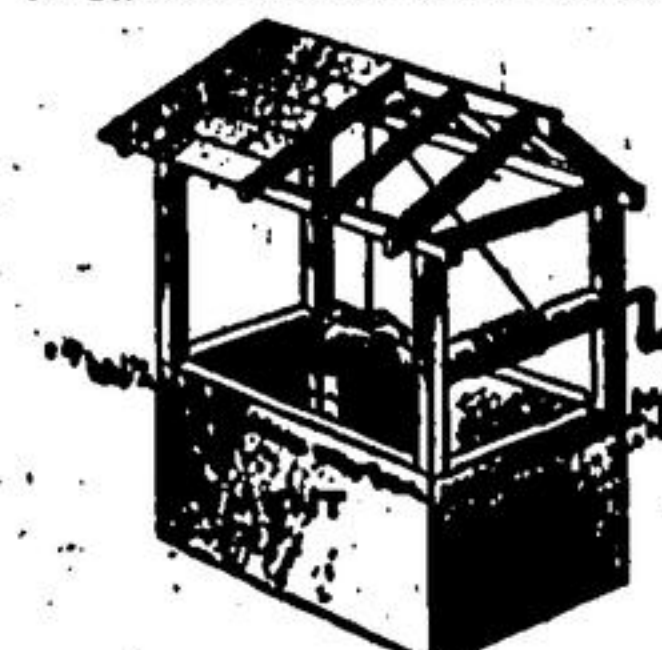
Well... well... well...

Gardeners are thinking in terms of soil fertility these days as plans are laid for the rush of spring work. I first saw this novel idea for cementing the compost heap a few years ago. By digging the pile up to look like an old-fashioned well you do not lessen its usefulness—in fact you add an ornament to the grounds.



WEATHER VANES

CUT FROM INCH PINE OR HALF INCH PLYWOOD. COUNTER SINK A ROD INTO BASE OF IMAGE; QUARTER INCH IS SUFFICIENT. ROD SHOULD SINK INTO SUPPORTING PIPE AT LEAST 1/2" TO 3/4", ACCORDING TO SIZE OF VANE. PAINT IN BRIGHT COLOURS.



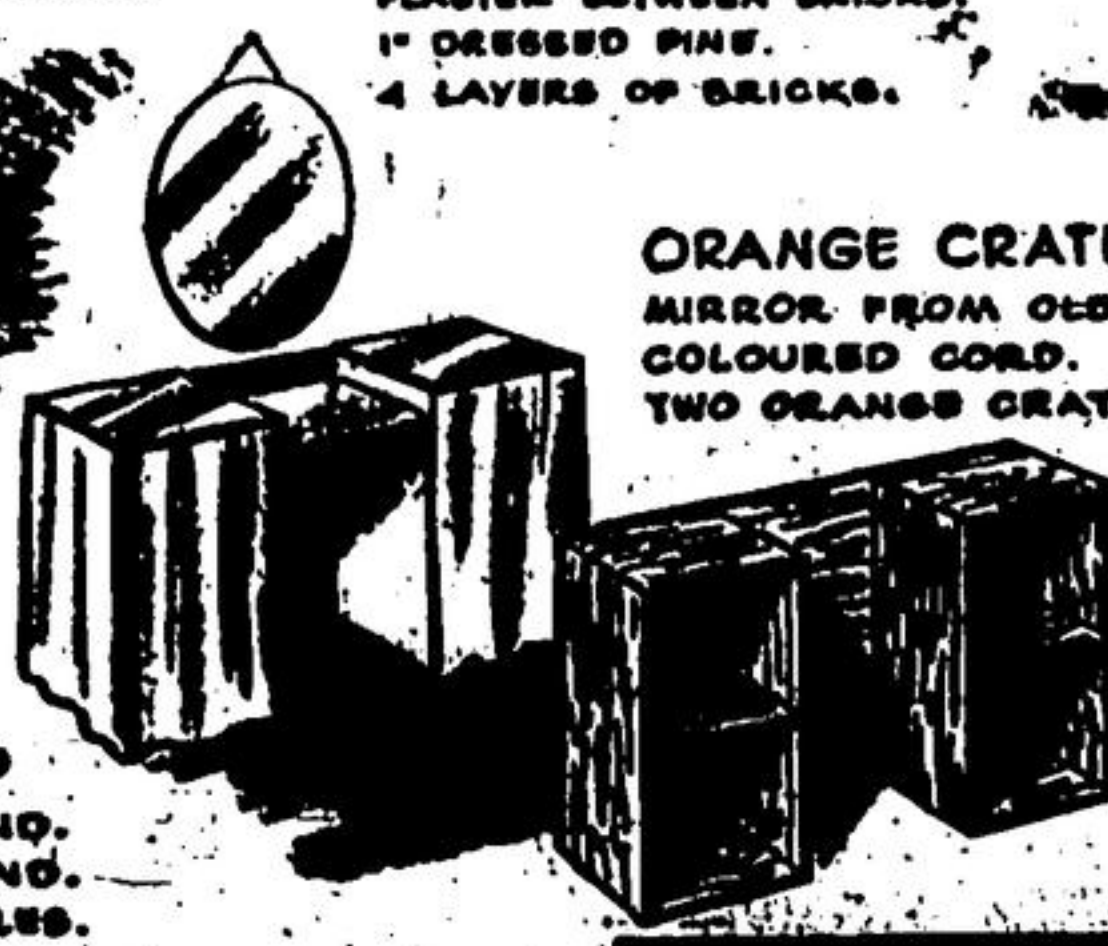
IMITATION WELL-HOUSE TO SCREEN THE COMPOST HEAP

CEMENT PORTION GOES BELOW GROUND. CRISWORK FOR PORTION ABOVE GROUND. SHEETING TO BE USED UNDER SHINGLES. GAP OR RIDGE POLE TO BE USED. APPROX. PIT DIMENSIONS: 40" x 64" x 40" DEEP. UPRIGHT CORNERS OF 4 x 4 OR 2 x 4. BOARD UP SIDES ABOUT 20" ABOVE GROUND. RAFTERS OF 2 x 4 OR 2 x 2.



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For more details on construction or any other items mentioned by Tom Gard—write him c/o MOLLISON'S (Ontario) LTD., P.O. Box 69 Adelaide St. Station, Toronto, for the illustrated booklet "AROUND THE HOME".