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### SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

#### Gordon Martin is New Orangeville Councillor

Mr. and Mrs. Cedric Cross and Lorne had their first visit with a new Orangeville councillor when they spent New Year's Day in Orangeville with Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Martin. Gordon, who worked at Provincial Paper office in town before moving to Orangeville several years ago, was elected to his first council term in December. Mr. and Mrs. Dick Packer and family were also guests for the day.

Miss Jean U. Adams was here from Buffalo, N.Y. to spend the Christmas holidays with her mother Mrs. Annie Adams and sister Mrs. Charles Junkin. Mr. and Mrs. Ross-Huncan, Jo Ann and Russ, Jr. went to Georgian Beach near Meaford to spend New Year's week-end at their summer home. For Christmas they had as their guests in town her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Shurgin of Toronto. Mrs. W. Frank and Mr. and Mrs. James F. Evans, Mary and Barbara had New Year's dinner in Killaride with Mr. and Mrs. William Bullard. Mrs. Frank spent the holiday week with relatives in Nassagaweya.

Mr. and Mrs. William Milliere, Sr. from Waterloo were here for the New Year's week end with Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Scratch. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Milliere, Jr. joined them for New Year's day. A number of Toronto visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Black, Guelph Street, included Mr. and Mrs. Fred Burnett, Judy and Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Burnett and Linda, Mr. and Mrs. J. Burnett and Miss Marie Black.

Mrs. George Herrington spent Christmas in Willowdale with her son Bruce Kennedy, his wife and children Cheryl and Lynn. Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Fiebig, Dawn and Wayne travelled to North Bay to spend the holiday week end with her mother Mrs. D. Cassidy and his father Mr. W. G. Fiebig. Mr. and Mrs. George Hewson and family were in Windsor where they visited with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. P. Dredhomme.

The Henry Shepherds had their nephew Bill Hornby of Hamilton with them for New Year's dinner and from town, Mr. and Mrs. Jack King, Kenney Frankie, Kathleen and Jack, and Miss Dorothy Hadley. Spending Christmas day with the Victor. Torrances were Mrs. E. R. Wheeler, Hamilton, Mrs. Duncan Ferguson, Ballinafad, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Marshall and Mr. and Mrs. Doug Marshall. Mrs. Wheeler came back for New Year's week-end to visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Marshall. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Suddaby, Charles

### PARM NEWS

#### Leatherbarrow Story Thrills Crop Improvers

Allred Leatherbarrow, of Elora district, was the feature speaker at the fifteenth annual meeting of the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association held in the Milton Town Hall on Wednesday. Approximately 125 Halton farmers were in attendance for this annual event, which got under way at 10:30 a.m. under the chairmanship of President Fred Nurse.

At the morning session, eight Halton farmer-cooperators gave brief practical reports as follows: Robert Hurren, "Renovation of a Rough Pasture"; Earl Wilson, "The 1954 Conservation - Land Use Tour"; Roy Tovell, "Fertilizer on Fall Wheat"; Fyfe Somerville, "Progress on our Long Term Pasture Demonstration Plot"; George S. Atkins on a "Variety Test With Silage Corn"; another involving different manurial, fertilizer, and cultivation treatments of the effect of 3 different fertilizer treatments on Medon Timothy as they affected seed setting; Hugh Bealy, Roy Break and Fred Nurse on "My Experience with Deep Cultivation."

On this latter topic, Gene Lemon, of Stouffville, president of the York County Soil and Crop Association, also contributed valuable information gained from three year's experience with the heavy duty cultivator on his light soil.

Other interesting visitors to the meeting included Wilfred Schaeffer, president of the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Assoc.; A. H. Martin, director of the Field Crops Branch, Toronto, and Glen Anderson, district fieldman attached to the same branch of the Ont. Dept. of Agriculture.

Thos. Bradley, county weed-inspector, presented a brief report on his year's activities. On the topic of Wild Carrot control secretary J. E. White lock presented a progress report on the demonstrations conducted by the Halton association in 1954.

**Tillage Experiment.**  
Some six or seven years ago, at the request of the Halton Association, a comprehensive experiment on "Tillage Equipment" was laid down on the W. E. Breckon farm near Appleby by the Departments of Agricultural Engineering, Soils, and Field Husbandry Departments at the OAC.  
In this connection G. L. Byers of

St. went to Brantford for Christmas, visiting with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Suddaby.

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## MACKENZIE NEWS

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There is still a lot of winter left yet so why not get those storm sash on.

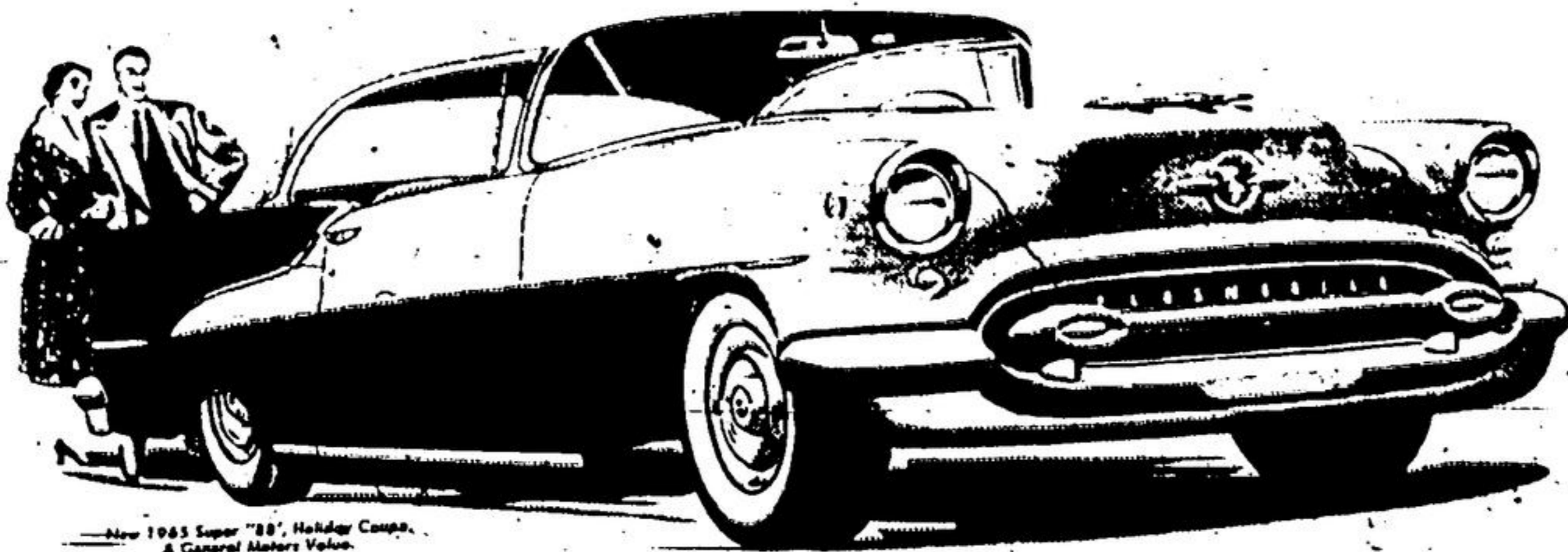
A storm sash approximately 26" wide by 5 ft. 3" high would cost \$49.91, with glass and dipped one coat in Pentox. Storm sash for a modern, small five roomed house would cost from \$75.00 to \$100.00.

It's a good week to rest up after the holiday season

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the first named department presented a preliminary report. This experiment involved the utilization of the following equipment; one way disc; disc plow Rotavator; Rotary plow, mould board plow, in various combinations.

According to Mr. Byers, the experiment was conducted on both a four and six year rotations. Strange as it may seem the various pieces of equipment did not reveal any significant differences in either crop yields; soil porosity; soil texture or other factors considered. A more comprehensive printed report on the experiment will be made available in the course of the next few months.

#### Hortala Alger Story

Alfred Leatherbarrow, who was introduced by W. E. Breckon, Halton's popular World Wheat King, presented a story which gripped the interest of his audience throughout. Mr. Leatherbarrow, born and brought up in the city of Montreal, had spent two years on a farm in the thirties. Following his five or six year participation in the recent World War where he received a forty per cent war disability, he decided "no more city life for me." With \$4700 as his total capital, he made a down payment on a one hundred-acre farm in the Elora district which he purchased for \$4,000. After buying a few household effects for his bride and himself he had \$1400 left to stock and equip his run-down, hilly, sandy farm. With this amount he purchased seven cows and a few pieces of second hand farm equipment.

#### Borrowed from Bank

"My application to the Veterans' Land Act for assistance was turned down and rightly so," stated Mr. Leatherbarrow. "They took a look at the farm and at me with a 40 per cent disability and limited experience, and that was enough." So off he went to the bank and on the strength of his purchases to date was able to persuade the bank manager to advance him sufficient money with which to purchase an additional seven cows.

#### Where There's A Will

It is too long a story to reproduce in this article, but the amazing thing is, he is still there. It was the pride of your reporter along with Edwin Harrop, well known Milton district farmer, to visit the Leatherbarrow farm in August, 1953. Certainly, so far as we could determine, the story as told in Milton on Wednesday of last week ties in with what we saw. Today, we had a chat with Dr. Howard Patterson, of the Economics Branch, Ont. Dept. of Agriculture, and we learned that in addition to seeing the farm, he personally has checked Mr. Leatherbarrow's books, and confirms this almost unbelievable story. As is always the case with successful farmers, "Alf" is fortunate in his helpmate, who we understand is

ing from war wounds. Incidentally, Mrs. Leatherbarrow recently wrote a book entitled "Gold in the Grass", which is based on their experiences in farming.

During the first two years, snow drifted into their living room with each snowstorm, and their roof revealed the stars in spots. During the same two years, his run-down farm would carry only the fourteen head of stock.

#### Grass Land Farming

"A 100 acre farm can't afford to grow grain, certainly not on my type of soil," stated Mr. Leatherbarrow. And after having seen his hilly, sandy farm we agree with him — in any event today following the advice of various members of the staff at the Ontario Agricultural College, to whom he gives much credit for his success he carried between 64 and 74 head of cattle on his 100 acre farm this past summer, and is wintering 68 head this winter. He also carries 10 to 12 cows from which he sells breeding stock; and twelve to fourteen hundred hens in his laying flock.

The speaker further reported he takes off between 200 and 275 tons of grass silage, which he stores in a pit silo, plus 75 to 80 tons of hay. As previously stated, he grows no grain and consequently has to buy all his grain. In addition to the necessary concentrate. To date he has been able to secure all his necessary straw from his neighbours, at a minimum of cost.

And so we might go on but if we haven't aroused your curiosity to the point where you either want to see the farm personally or read Mr. Leatherbarrow's "Gold in the Grass" — why we had better quit in any event.

By the way, here's the newly elected directorate of this Halton association which had a paid-up membership of 162 in 1954.

President, E. Ross Segsworth; Vice President, Maurice C. Beatty; Secretary-Treasurer, J. E. Whitelock.

Directors: Trafalgar: George S. Atkins, Lloyd Tovell, and J. H. Willmbit; Esqueving, John M. Bird, T. J. Brownridge, Fred Nurse and Mac Sprowl; Nelson, W. E. Breckon, Brock Harris; Nassagaweya, R. A. Hurren, Jack McPhall, and Stanley Norris; Acton District, Calvin Atken.

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