

## CANADIAN PLOWMEN ABROAD

By WILL C. BARRIE, Editor  
1955 CANADIAN PLOWING TEAM



W. C. Barrie

**Editor's Note:**

W. C. Barrie of Galt, Ontario, a past president of the Ontario Plowmen's Association and manager of the Canadian plowing team at the third annual World Plowing Match in Sweden, has sent home on-the-spot reports of his trip with team members Joe Tran of Claxson, Ont. and Ivan McLaughlin of Stratford, Ont. Here is the third of his reports.

Uppsala, Sweden: If anyone had told me a year ago that I would celebrate my seventy-first birthday high above the English Channel and the North Sea I would have told him he was crazy.

But there I was, on my way to the World Plowing Match, along with our Canadian plowmen, Joe Tran and Ivan McLaughlin, plus Mrs. Barrie, Mrs. McLaughlin, two other teams of plowmen — from Northern Ireland, and Britain — and a number of World Plowing Organization officials and their friends. When word got around that it was my birthday, the whole party offered their congratulations. The air was clear and our view of the flat English farmland on the banks of the Thames was a sight we will long remember.

While skirting the coast of Holland we could see quite plainly the many miles of dykes with Amsterdam 10 miles to our right. Our flight took us over Heligoland, that German island in the North Sea which had been so heavily fortified by the Kaiser Wilhelm previous to the World War I.

By the time we were approaching Oslo it was getting dark and the lights were coming on as we flew up the coast of Norway. To view this country from the air and see the great number of lakes, rivers and fjords, would lead one to think that conservation of water would present no problem in that country. On the contrary, as we learned later, Norway, Sweden and Finland all had the driest summer in many years. In fact, the plowing fields at Uppsala, where the match is to be held, have been so dry, that had it not been for daily artificial watering during the past month, there would have been no match.

Our plane stopped a very short time in Oslo, and then took off for Stockholm. There we were welcomed by Bengt Stengander, the representative for the World Plowing Organization in Sweden. Mr. Stengander is manager of the Swedish plow team. In 1953 he accompanied the Swedish team to Canada and last year to the match at Killarney, Ont. At the present time, he is secretary of the Swedish Farm Youth Federation.

Our group was taken to the Hotel Malmen, a very modern hotel built just four years ago, which compares favourably with any we have in Canada. It did seem strange to hear the Swedish language when we arrived, but on the next day when the groups from Norway, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Belgium, France, Germany, Holland, and the United States came.



Joe Tran



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it sounded like the United Nations Forestry Exhibit.

That morning after breakfast Alfred Hall, secretary of the WPO suggested we might like to see a forestry exhibition in a park in Stockholm. The exhibition was held in a park of over 100 acres, known as the Natural History Museum of Stockholm, on a mountain high above the city. The taxis took us up half way the mountain side and then the rest of the way was made on an escalator several hundred feet long.

The exhibition, portraying Sweden's most valuable natural resource was spread over a large area, showing the many uses for the products of the forest, how it can best be preserved and improved.

The great hazard of forest fires was emphasized and many types of equipment for fighting fires were shown. It was an interesting and instructive exhibition and I am very sorry that our young Canadian's haven't the opportunity of seeing one in our country. As a member of the Canadian Forestry Association and the Trees Conservation Commission of Waterloo County, I feel that the information I received will be of great help.

The next day, two of the most modern buses I have ever ridden in carried us out of the city.

On the way out to Uppsala we noticed a great difference between the English and Swedish farms. Instead of hedged fields of green sod and many herds of cattle and sheep, we saw plowed fields, no hedges or fences and no livestock. We were told that owing to the very dry summer there was no grass for the cattle and they were being stable fed. Instead of permanent fences they use electric or single barb wire fences.

We did see a large number of fields of rape, which is sown in rows about the first of September and harvested the next August. We were surprised to learn that in this great dairy country the farmers were growing rape for seed and the oil from the seed is used to make margarine.

We were also surprised when passing a great many army trucks loaded with soldiers that this country, which has had peace for over two hundred years, has military conscription. Every man at 21 years of age has to spend a year in the army, and then for the next 15 years one month each year.

**No Land Wasted**  
The area of good farmland in Sweden is limited and none of it is wasted. On the farms we passed on the 40 mile trip to Uppsala we noticed that all of the farm buildings were built on some hill or rough land not fit for cultivation. While passing a farm we noticed a large number of poles about six feet long standing upright in a field and were told that when the oats are cut the sheaves are placed on these poles to dry. All other grain, such as wheat and barley, have to be artificially dried as soon as they are threshed.

The average Swedish farm is about 20 acres of working land and 40 acres of bush and to make a good living, farmers need to spend the winters in the woods. As over 50 per cent of Sweden's exports are from the woods we can readily see why good forestry is so important.

Near Uppsala the buses stopped at the agricultural school, where the students do not study in classrooms but are put to practical work on the farm.

We were shown through the testing department where tractors and other farm machines are put to a rigid test. A new tractor that is being put on the market by an implement company is usually run on a full load for 1,500 hours and the report published so that the farmers know which make to buy. One building housed a collection of early Swedish plows and other implements, some of them nearly 200 years old.

As we drove out to the site of the world match we could see the great streams of water that have been applied to the plowing land night and day for the past month to make it fit for plowing. Up to that time over 6,000,000 gallons had been used, and watering was to continue until the plowing started.

### BROWNIDGE BOAR ROYAL RIZEWINNER

T. J. Brownridge is proud of the record of Spring Echo Dandy, a boar bred on his farm which is now owned by W. A. Greenway, Acme, Alberta. Spring Echo, who was grand champion Tamworth at the Royal Winter Fair in 1952, has won first prize for aged boar in the past four shows. The huge animal, who tips the scales at almost 800 lbs., won a special prize this year also as the heaviest boar in any breed.

### Plan Annual Sale TB Christmas Seals

The Halton County Tuberculosis & Health Association held the pre-Christmas Seal Drive meeting in Milton on Monday, November 7th, 1955. Because of demands by citizens in the county, activities have been expanded. Members and directors were made aware by the president, Mr. E. S. Bean, of the need for funds in order that assistance to Halton County Citizens, social service work and educational work might continue. The meeting was advised that the introduction of the social service worker had already proved of considerable value. All patients and discharged patients were contacted and assisted when necessary.

At the fall convention of Halton County Teachers, literature, facts, figures and general information was made available and received by 400 teachers who attended the meeting. Recently a film was presented to the Oakville Library which deals in story form with an actual case. Mr. Bean said that members of the association were willing at any time to speak to groups of citizens or clubs on the work of the Canadian Tuberculosis Association and in particular the county association.

The meeting resolved to further extend the activities of the association and to add to the activities as necessary and funds allowed.

### VERDUN REBEKAH INITIATION

At the regular meeting of Verdun Rebekah Lodge, November 15th the initiation team, under the direction of Mrs. Harold Cleave, initiated two new members, Mrs. Doris Copland and Mrs. Jean Shipway. A social hour was held after the closing of lodge.

### BOWLING TEAMS SPORT NEW SHIRTS

With Silver's Firemen and the two Legion teams all sporting new shirts the industrial bowling leagues has added some clothing class to their regular league games. Perhaps it will be an impetus for one of them to reach the top of the heap, where Andersons still reign supreme.

Last week J. Williams was a star in both departments, using a 320 high-single to give him an excellent 766 triple. J. Long also broke 300 with a 314, while Harvey Lusty had the record triple, 779.

Others who had good scores were Bill Anderson 312; Reg Ryall 308; Nick Brown 292; Tom Herbert 287; G. Webster 286. In triples, there were J. Long 748; Bill Anderson 741; T. Herbert 739; E. Cuthbert 738; J. Inglis 718.

Big Ten averages have these as leaders: J. Graham (Kentner's) 233; B. Anderson (Andersons) 225; Trev Williams (Andersons) 224; Frank Anderson (Silvers) 218; Nip Shipway (Silvers) 216; George Barber (Kentner's), 214; Harry Chappel (Provincial) 213; Bill Korsack (Legion 2), 211; J. Saunders (Andersons) 208; T. Bludd (Kay's) 207.

### Team standings

	Won	Lost	Pts
Andersons	23	7	52
Legion No 1	19	11	45
Provincial	17	13	42
Kentner's	17	13	42
Legion No 2	16	14	38
Silvers	16	14	38
Imperial	15	15	33
Kays	13	17	30
Firemen	11	19	28
Ramblers	11	19	28
Mistifs	11	19	28
Lorne Scots	11	19	25



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