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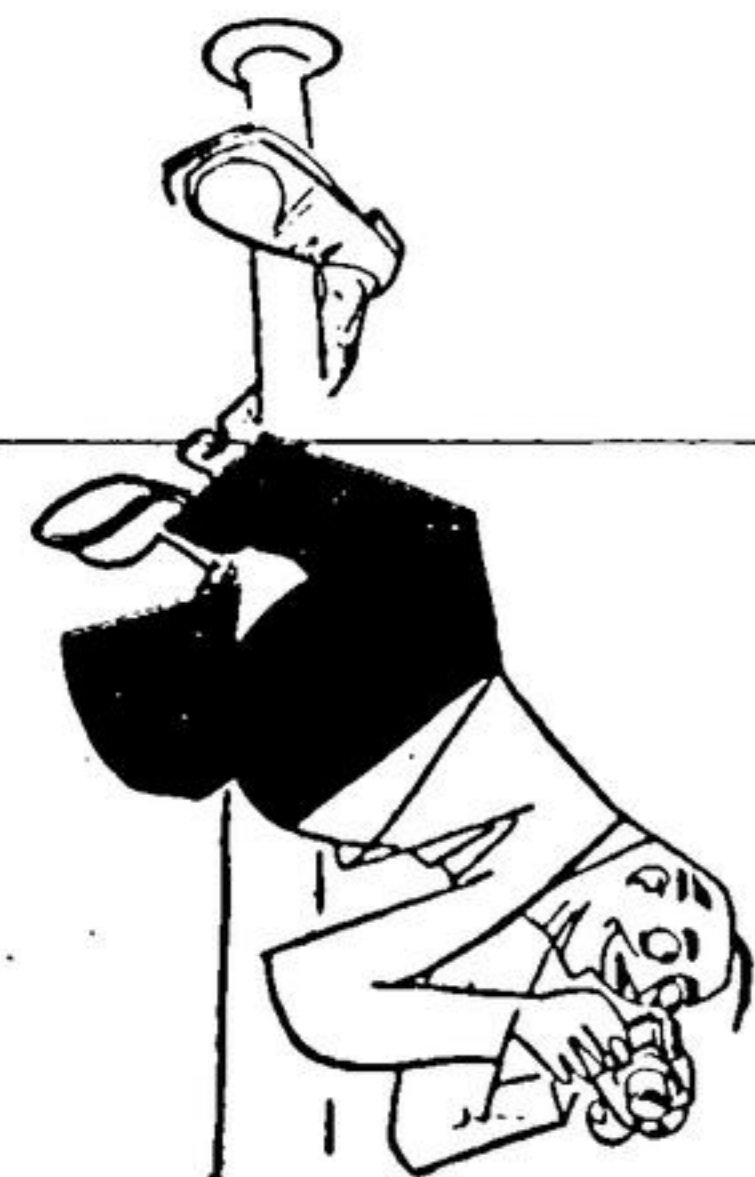
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**CANADIAN
PLOWMEN
ABROAD**

By WILL C. BARRIE, Manager
1955
CANADIAN PLOWING TEAM



W. C. Barrie

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 Claremont, Ont., and Ivan McLaughlin of Stouffville, Ont. Here is the fourth of his reports.

Uppsala, Sweden: Of all the plowing teams, from 12 different countries — none were looking forward any more eagerly than we were, to making the last leg of the journey to the site of the 1955 World Plowing Match. We Canadians had travelled almost half way around the world, by train, by boat and by plane, and now we, along with the 11 other teams, were boarding a bus to travel the last few miles to the match site, on the Royal Agricultural Farm, just outside this old city of 75,000.

The college is part of the University of Uppsala. One of the oldest universities in Europe, it was established in 1477, fifteen years before Columbus discovered America. On the hillside at the rear of the hotel is the Uppsala Cathedral, an immense red brick building with three spires reaching into the sky. This is Sweden's largest cathedral, and although the outside of the building is quite plain and cold looking, inside it is one of the most beautiful I have ever seen.

However, we did not have too much time for sight seeing at this point, for we had to get ready for the match. When we arrived at the grounds, we could see that preparations had been underway for some time as a large number of implements of all makes were on display.

Instruct Judges
The first day was spent in demonstrating to the judges what to look for in the competition. We in Ontario who have been connected with the International Match for many years feel that our score card is just about right. However, when the ideas of twelve countries have to be considered, compromises have to be made.

On Wednesday, the plowmen from the twelve countries were allotted the plots of land on which to practice, and these workouts created just about as much interest as a real plowing match. On Thursday the time was again used for practice. We also had time Thursday to visit the dairy barn on this farm where a fine herd of Swedish red and white

dairy cattle is kept. These cattle are very much like our dual purpose Shorthorns and are very popular in Sweden.

Unveil Cairn

The official opening the next day was attended by about 12,000 people. To mark the site permanently, a cairn was unveiled on the agricultural college grounds a short distance from the match field. A model of a plow surmounted the cairn, and a plaque noted the contribution which plows and plowmen make to the peace of the world. A similar cairn had been unveiled a few weeks earlier at Cobourg, Ontario, where the first world match was held in 1953.

The Swedish minister of agriculture Hon. S. Norup, speaking in Swedish and then in English, traced the history of plowing from the early days, and with the help of two Swedish girl students, dressed in native attire, unveiled the memorial. The governor of the province, Dr. Andren, a tall distinguished looking gentleman, amazed the audience by speaking in Swedish, German, French, and perfect English, and finally declared the competition open.

Next the plowmen had lunch in a tent and then lined up their tractors and plows for a parade to the field.

They were allowed to set their stakes and line up the tractors at the scratch, and at 12 noon a red rocket was fired as the starting signal. Later, 12 judges, one from each participating country, started to score the work and although it was not announced until the following evening, Ivan McLaughlin of Canada received the highest score for stubble. Joe Tran, his team mate, did as well if not better than Ivan, but ran into some hard luck which lowered his score.

The next day, when they plowed grassland, the teams were told to be on hand one hour earlier in order to be finished and ready for the banquet. The day was ideal for plowing and long before the starting rocket was fired, an immense crowd had gathered. The field was roped off to keep the crowd off the headlands and benches were placed outside the ropes.

Loud Applause
As each plowman turned out at the end after finishing his land, loud clapping could be heard from the crowd gathered beyond the headland. While the plowing was in progress, a number of airplanes were giving a demonstration of crop spraying near by, and the pilots showed great skill,

flying under the hydro and telephone wires and skimming along about two feet from the ground, sending out a spray that would completely cover the crop.

It could be readily seen by this time that Hugh Barr of Northern Ireland, last year's winner of the Faso Golden Plow had done an outstanding job and was likely to repeat his win of last year. Ivan McLaughlin of Canada and Hugh Barr's team mate, Langford Gilliland were running neck and neck. Everyone was on pins and needles waiting for the results.

The News is Out
The judges handed in their score cards shortly after the plowing ended and the auditors were soon busy tabulating the results.

We returned to the hotel and had just finished cleaning up at the hotel when word came that the returns were out. The fact that Northern Ireland, Canada, and Great Britain shared the first six placings was received with much rejoicing by her Majesty's loyal subjects present.

When it was learned that Ivan McLaughlin had received the highest score in stubble plowing and Hugh Barr the highest in sod, with Hugh's combined score a little more than Ivan's, they were soon the centre of a cheering crowd. We proceeded at once to send a cable to Toronto for our trip sponsor, Imperial Oil, and shortly after, John Bradshaw, the Faso farm reporter, telephoned from Toronto to get the results. Because of the difference in the time between Canada and Sweden, people in Canada knew the result several hours, so to speak, before the plowing took place!

Colourful Banquet
The banquet which was sponsored by the Swedish Young Farmers was a most colourful affair, with a setting that would be hard to surpass anywhere. (continued on Page 3)

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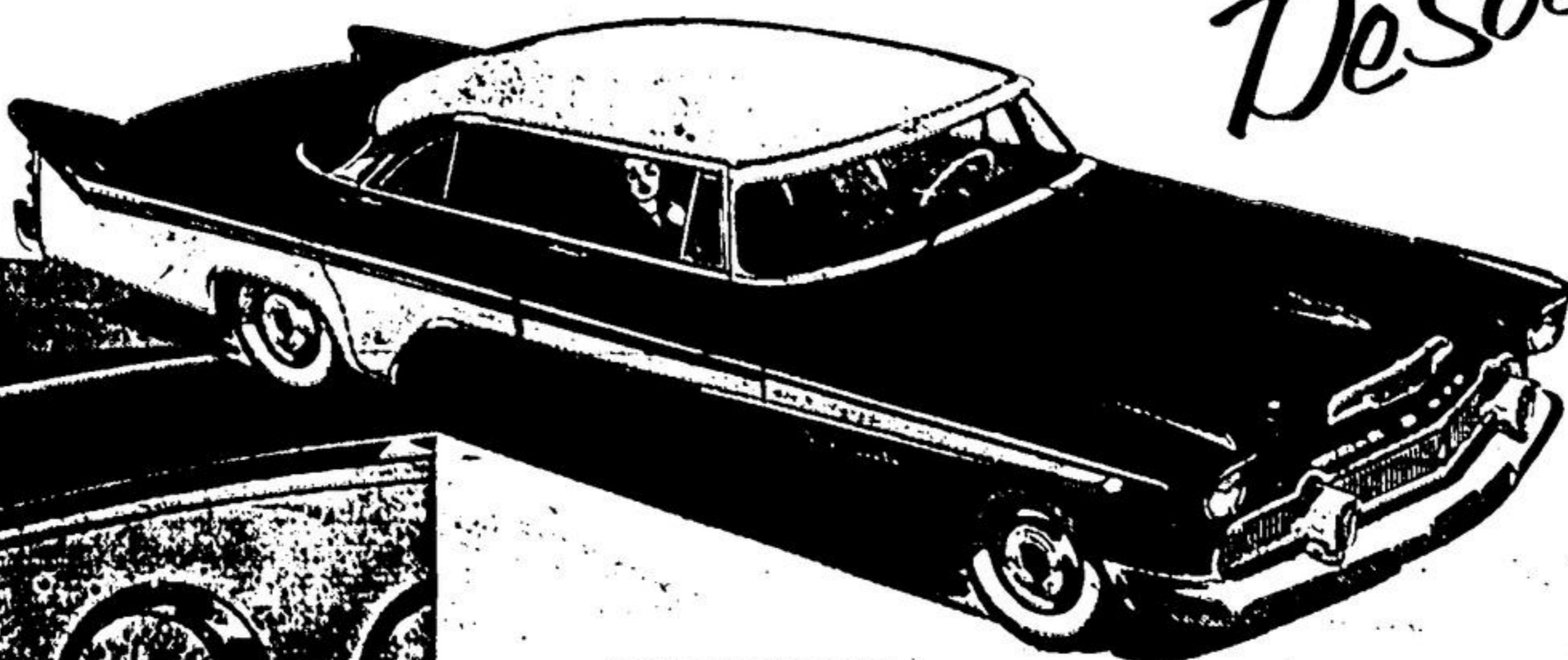
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