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FARM NEWS

Fred Nurse Watch Winner for Grain

J. E. W.
The awards in connection with the Grain Corn competition sponsored by the Halton Soil & Crop Improvement Association, were announced at the annual meeting of the association which was held in the Milton Town Hall.

Many Halton folk have been wondering for some time who grew the 114 bushel crop of grain corn in Halton in 1955. Finally the dark secret was unveiled — the winner is the past president of the Halton association in the person of Fred Nurse, of Ashgrove. His record yield of 114.49 bus. of corn at 15 per cent moisture content was grown from a mixture of Pioneer 349 and 377A. The field in which the corn was grown was plowed in the fall of 1954, out of a good Alfalfa, Bromo mixture. Last spring the field received an application of barnyard manure at around eight tons to the acre. The crop was planted on May 18th, in 36 inch rows, at which time it received an application of 200 lbs. of 4-24-12 to the acre, applied in bands.

In second place, and very close, was Walker Bros., Milton, with a field of 113.54 bus. to the acre, which won John Richardson's Special of one bushel of DeKalb seed corn. The Walker Bros. crop was planted on May 16th, in 40 inch rows, and was of the Funks G.11 variety. This particular field was also in corn in 1954. When plowed it received 200 lbs. of 33 per cent nitrogen and 250 lbs. of 4-24-12 per acre. At planting time another 200 lbs. of 4-12-10 was sown per acre.

The third prize award which took with it Rayner Bros. special of a bushel of Pioneer seed corn was won by Tom C. Foster, of the Lowville district. Here the yield was 104.4 bus. to the acre, and was of the Funks G.176 variety planted in 40 inch rows. This field also grew corn in 1954, received an application of five tons of barn yard manure to the acre. On May 1st the field received 200 lbs. of 33 per cent nitrogen per acre; and at planting time on May 20th an additional 250 lbs. of 4-24-12 per acre was applied. The fourth man with over 100 bus. yield was Harvey Nurse, of Ashgrove. This crop of the Pioneer 377A variety was planted in 36 inch rows, on May 28th. The field was plowed this past spring out of sod, and received an application of eight tons of barn yard manure per acre plus 200 lbs. of Cyanamid, also plowed in. At planting time an additional 250 lbs. of 4-24-12 was applied with the corn planter.

Other awards were as follows:
5th, Burdge Gunby, Millgrove, 93.1 bus., DeKalb 240; 6th, Geo. Coulson, Lowville, 91.4 bus., DeKalb 56; 7th, Brock Harris, Lowville, 80.8 bus., Pioneer 377A; 8th, Dan Smith and Sons, Kilbride, 80.6 bus. Funks G11; 9th, Gordon Hume, Campbellville, 79.6 bus., Pioneer 388; 10th, Ross Harbottle, Kilbride, 77.1 bus.; DeKalb 56.

These yields were based on corn picked from eight rods of row in each field (2 rods at each of four places). Ten average ears were then selected in each field, taken to the Dept. of Field Husbandry at the Ontario Agricultural College, where the moisture percentage and shelling percentage was determined and yields calculated on a 15 per cent moisture basis. The competition called for a minimum of 3 acres and naturally each competitor selected the best three acres in his field.

The winner, Fred Nurse, harvested his crop with a combination picker and sheller machine. It was then taken to a drier where it was weighed in at the existing moisture basis. On this basis the field averaged slightly over 99 bus. per acre. That, my friends, is quite a yield in any man's language. Certainly all fourteen of the competitors had a lot more feed off their respective fields than they would have had, had it been in oats or barley.

Corn vs. Oats
When one notes the yields the competitors in the Grain Corn competition secured, an average of 85 bus. of shelled corn to the acre, it makes one wonder if we should be growing as much oats as we do in this country. Let us briefly compare the two crops from the standpoint of total digestible nutrients to the acre, using 50 bus. as an average yield for corn, and 45 bus. for oats. Corn according to Morrison's feeding standards runs around 80 per cent total digestible nutrients and oats around 70 per cent. On this basis a fifty bus. crop of corn would give 2240 pounds of total digestible nutrients to the acre. A 45 bushel crop of oats, in contrast, would give 1071 lbs. of total digestible nutrients. From the standpoint of total protein giving oats an analysis of 12 per cent against 9.6 per cent for corn, we get this picture — 183 lbs. of protein per acre for oats, and 289 lbs. for corn. Corn has all the better of the story too, when one looks at the fibre analysis — corn 2.3 per cent against 10.6 per cent for oats. Back 8 or 20 years ago we did a little work on grain corn and at that time we came to the conclusion that while grain corn had a place on our more loamy soils, that it was out on the heavy soils. The basis for this conclusion was, first, those on the heavier soils did not get the yield, and secondly, too often the growers did not get the corn picked early enough to enable them to get the stocks plowed under in the fall.

While spring plowing, generally speaking, is OK on our loamy and on lighter soils, we are still of the opinion that our heavier soils must be fall plowed if we are to get a satisfactory crop the following year. Since that time, however, a lot has been learned about growing corn. In the first place, we now have earlier, better corn hybrids.

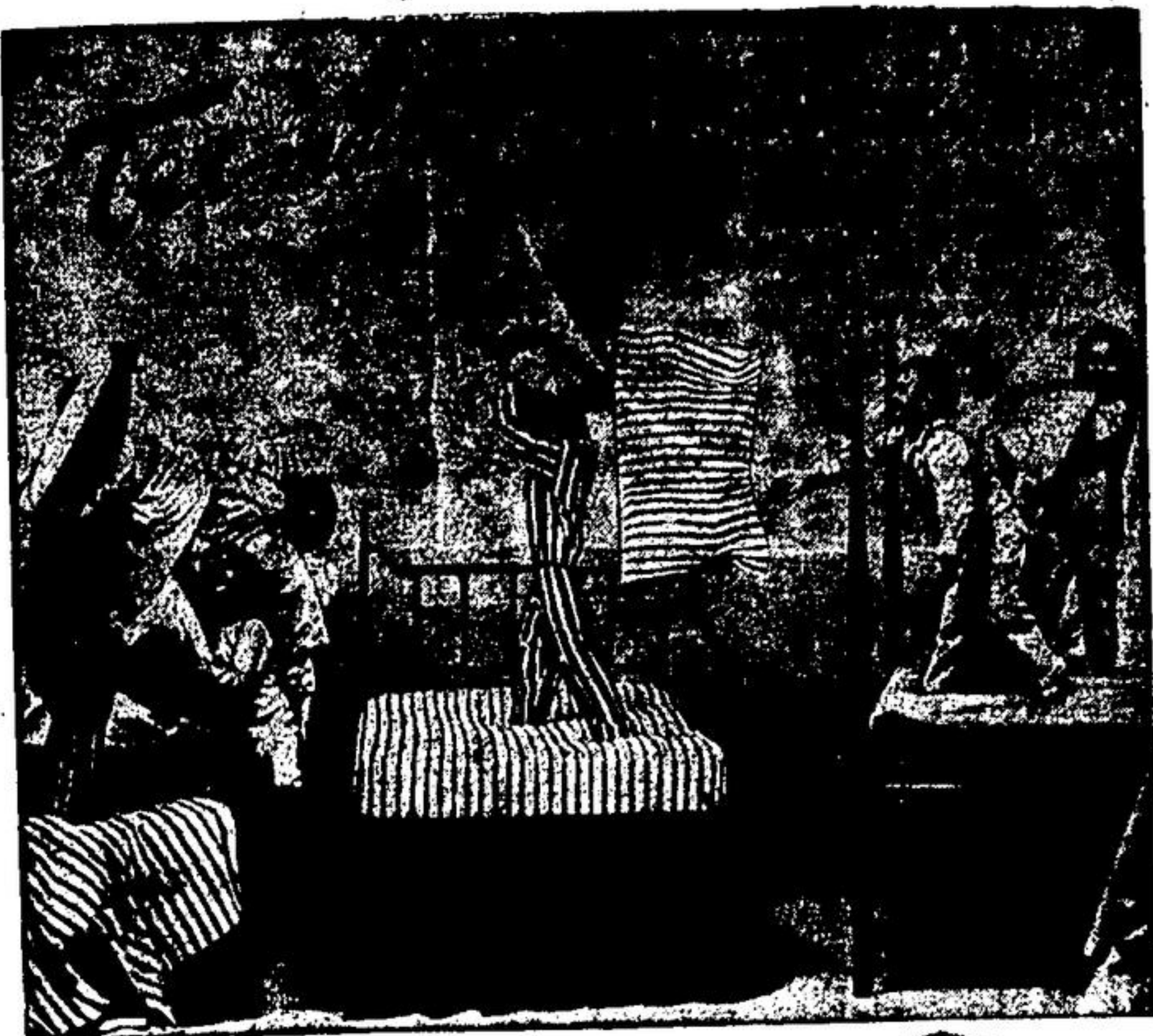
Secondly we have found that corn normally responds to fairly heavy applications of commercial fertilizer. True, the first prize winner this year did not use as much commercial fertilizer as the majority of the competitors. However, the field in question was in our opinion, in a high state of fertility. Furthermore, a good alfalfa and bromo sod was turned under along with around eight tons of manure to the acre. However, there are a lot of angles to the question. Is custom equipment available when re-

quired, etc., etc. Certainly we would be one of the last to want to see some of our operators on our heavy soils jump into the growing of grain corn. In our opinion, it is a crop with which one should feel his way. At the same time we can't help but think that the day will come, when we will be growing more grain corn in this county — that is, providing we don't sell it all off for housing and industry.

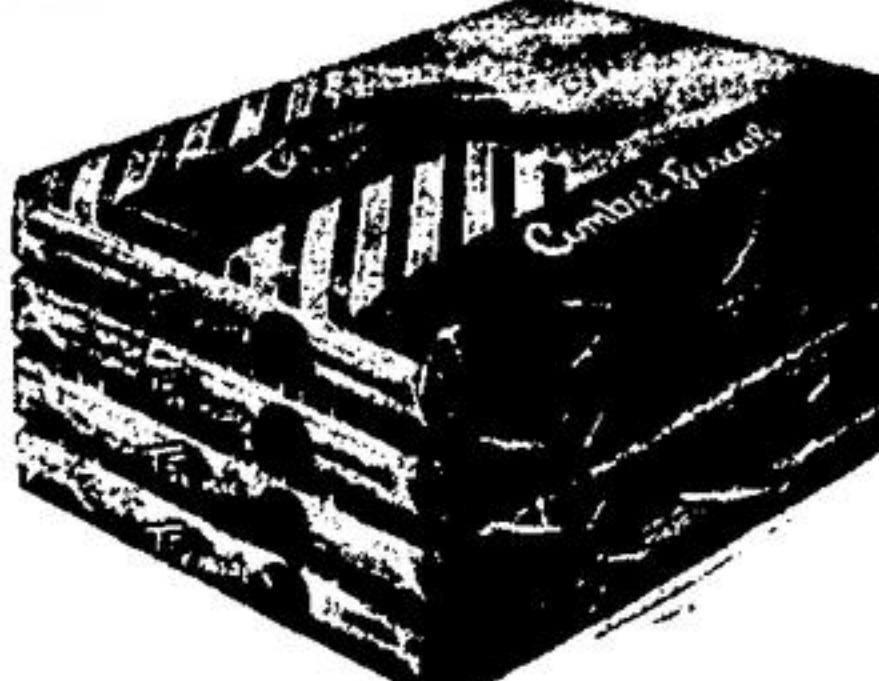
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SURPRISE GATHERING ON 40th ANNIVERSARY

A surprise gathering was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Davidson to celebrate their 40th anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Davidson were holding a committee meeting for the Acton Fair Board when nearly 30 friends arrived. A social evening was spent and at lunch time a cameo locket and chain and cuff links and tie clip set were presented to the couple.



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